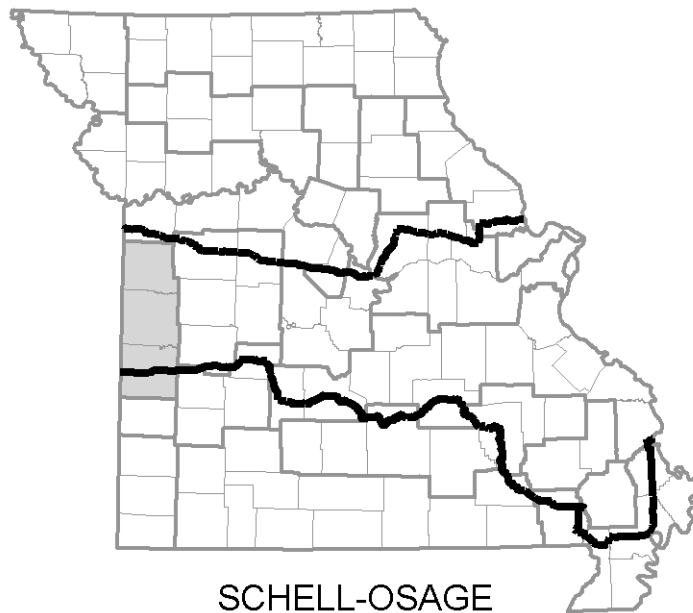
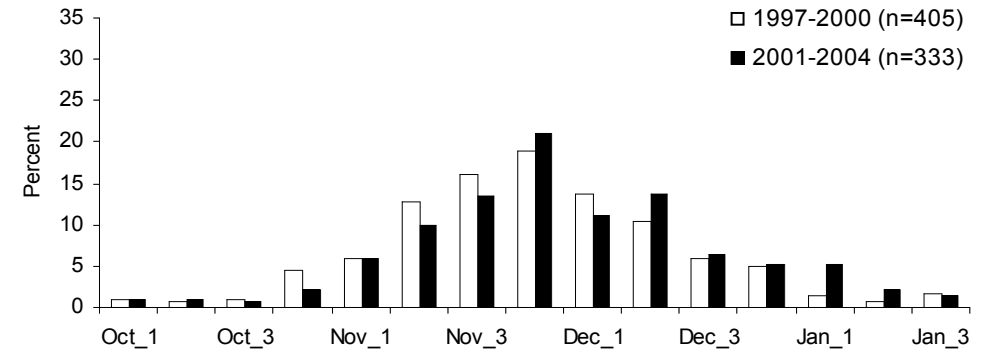


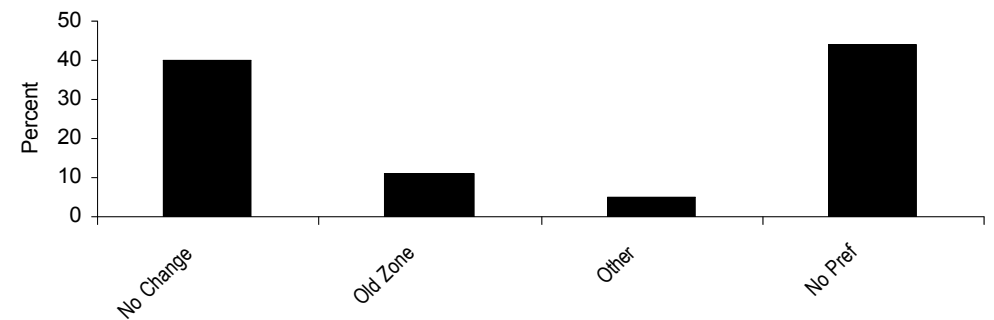
SCHELL-OSAGE: Significant public and private wetland restoration efforts have greatly enhanced hunting opportunity in this region. Much of this opportunity occurs in shallow-water habitat. In 2003 and 2004, season dates were about a week later than they had been in previous years. Twenty-seven percent of hunters prefer the season timing of the last two years, but 21% would like a return to an opener during the last week of October. An equal number of hunters would like an earlier or later opener than an opening date on November 5. Hunter preferences were so varied about the timing of a 30-day season, that the preferences of some would entirely exclude others. For example, 27% indicated they would like a season to open on or before November 5 and close by December 4. If this season structure occurred, it would effectively preclude desired hunting opportunity for the 21% not wanting the season to open until December 3 at the earliest.



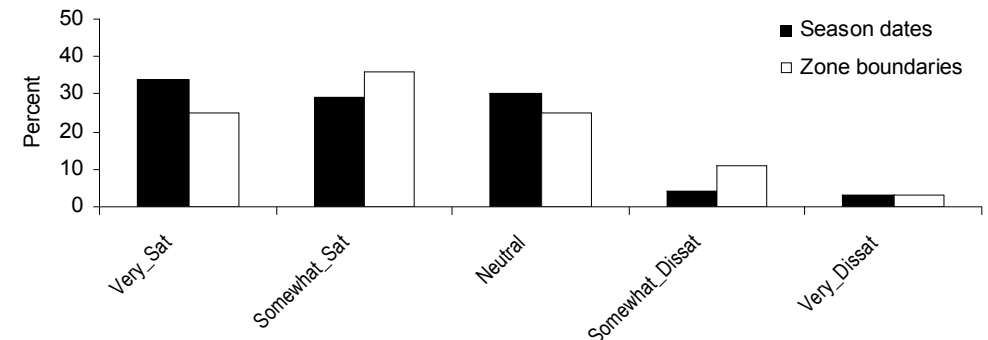
Week most preferred to hunt ducks for hunters who primarily hunted Schell-Osage Region: 1997-2000 and 2001-2004.



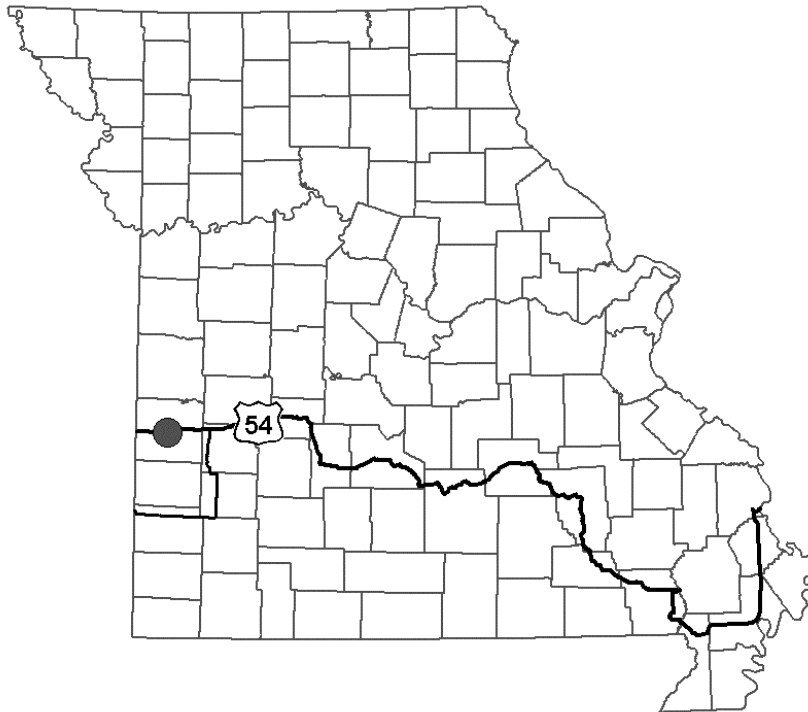
South Zone boundary preferences for western Missouri among those who primarily hunted the Schell-Osage Region (n=206).



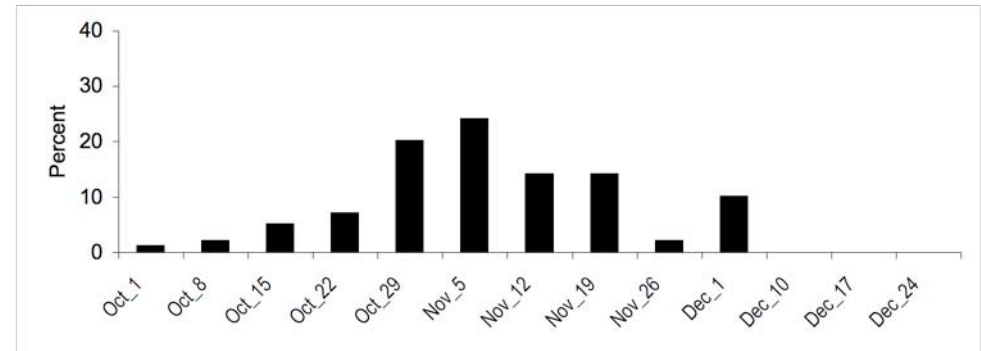
Hunter satisfaction with season dates and zone boundaries by those who primarily hunted in the Schell-Osage Region (n=192).



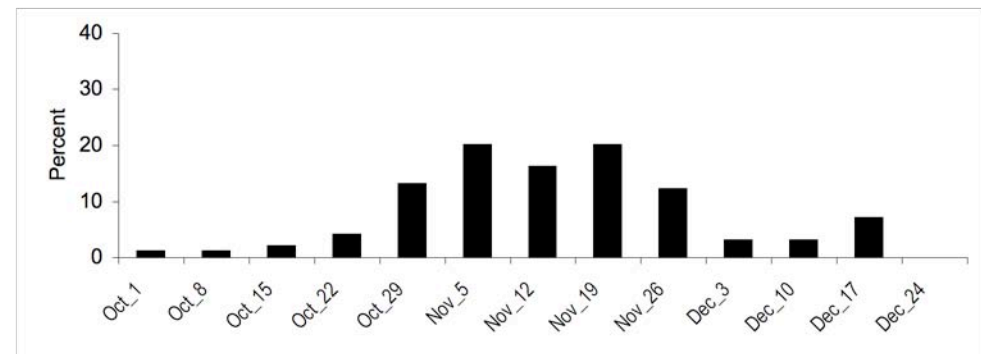
SHELL-OSAGE: Over 20% of hunters in the Schell-Osage Region most prefer to hunt the fourth week of November and 46% preferred sometime between the third week of November and first week of December. Over 60% of hunters were satisfied with season dates and zone boundaries and most preferred the current zone boundary or had no zone boundary preference.



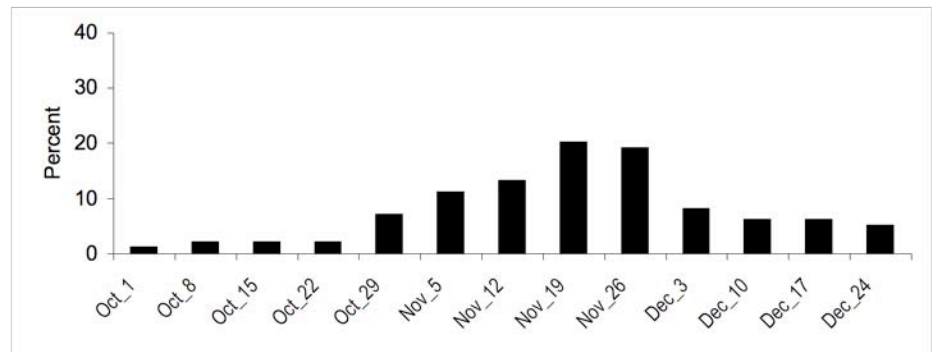
Preferred day for 60-day season to open for those who primarily hunted Truman Region (n=206).



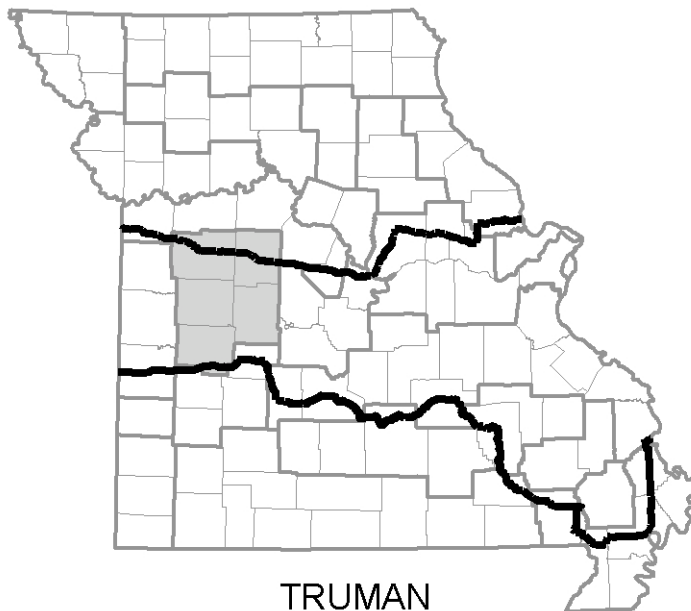
Preferred day for 45-day season to open for those who primarily hunted Truman Region (n=200).



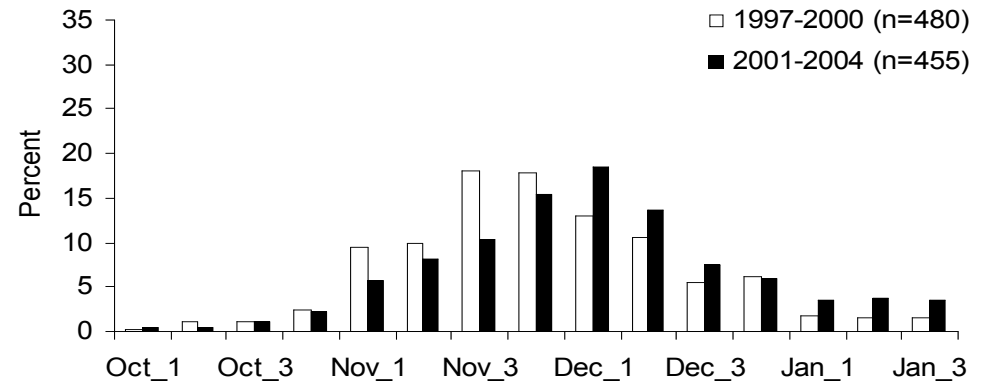
Preferred day for 30-day season to open for those who primarily hunted Truman Region (n=195).



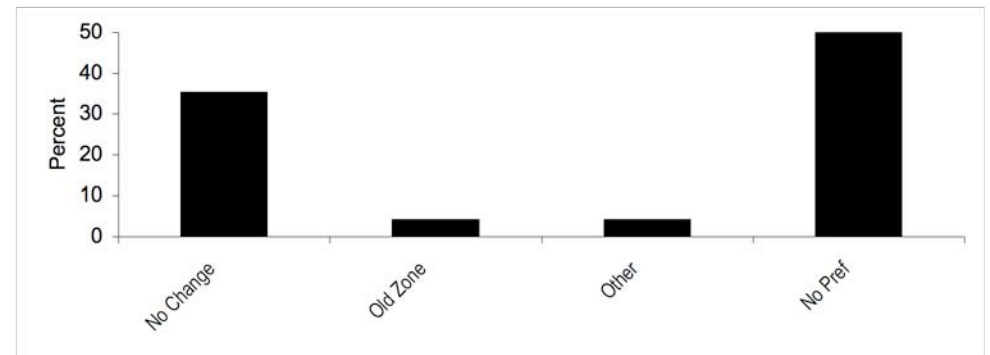
TRUMAN: With completion of Truman reservoir in the late 1970s, the distribution of mallards changed dramatically. However, as is the case with most reservoirs, as it has aged it has become less attractive to ducks. Good wetland habitat is provided in wet years when rising water floods moist soil habitat. Hunting opportunity ranges from shallow water, especially in wet years, to deep water. Season date preferences reflect different hunting styles with the 26% of hunters preferring a 60-day season to open on or after November 19 likely representing those hunting deep water habitats around the time of freeze-up.



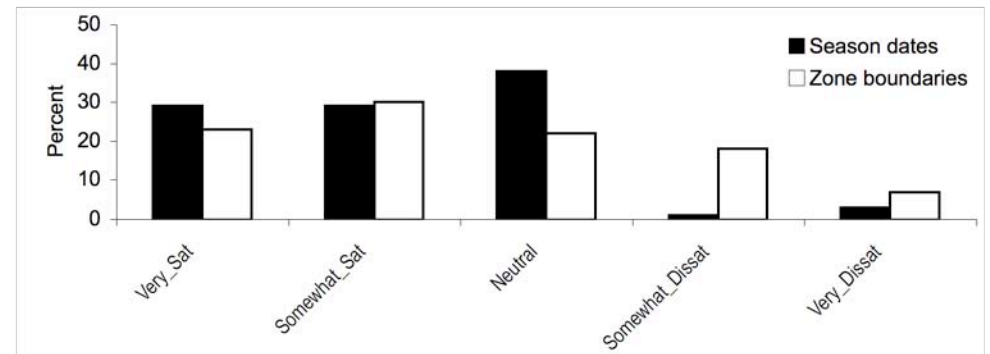
Week most preferred to hunt ducks for hunters who primarily hunted the Truman Region: 1997-2000 and 2001-2004.



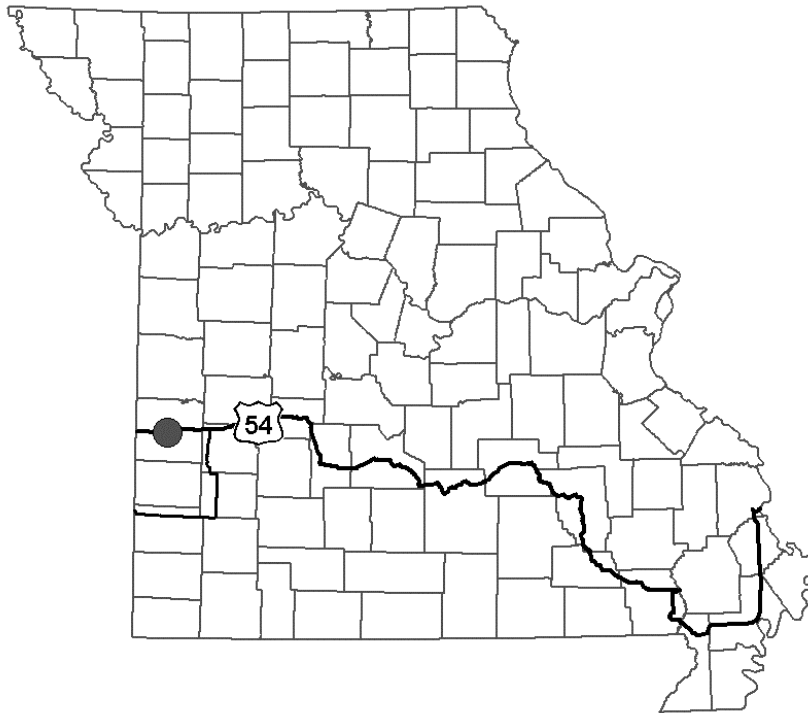
South Zone boundary preferences for western Missouri among those who primarily hunted the Truman Region (n=236).



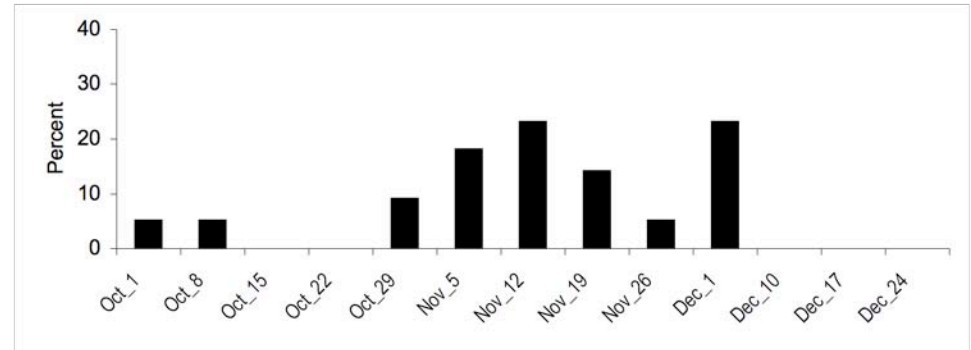
Hunter satisfaction with season dates and zone boundaries by those who primarily hunted in the Truman Region (n=222).



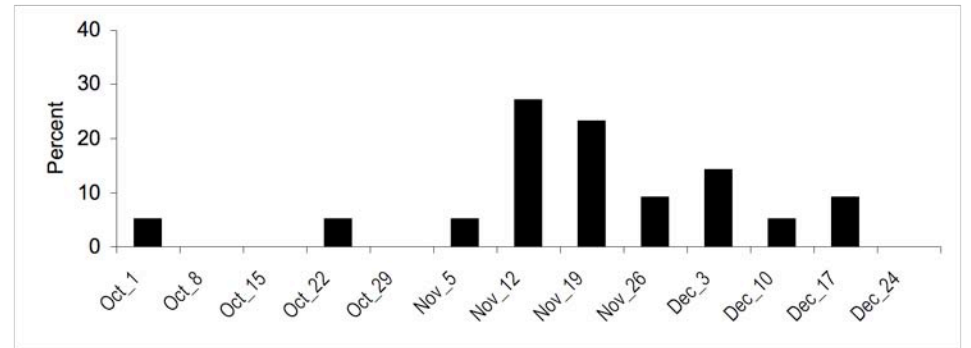
TRUMAN: Compared to the Schell-Osage Region with more shallow water habitat, hunters in the Truman Region have slightly later hunting preferences. Truman Region hunters also have made a more notable shift to later season preferences. For example, during 1997-2000, 18% indicated that the third week in November was their preferred week to hunt. From 2000-20004, only 10% preferred the third week in November.



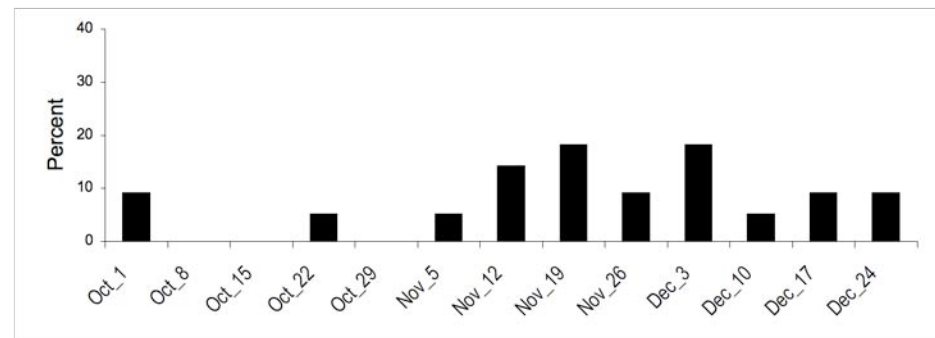
Preferred day for 60-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Lake Ozark/Osage River Region (n=22).



Preferred day for 45-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Lake Ozark/Osage River Region (n=22).



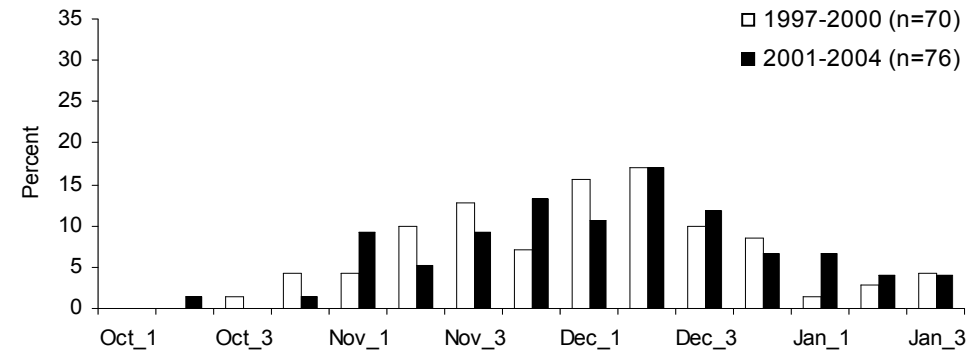
Preferred day for 30-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Lake Ozark/Osage River Region (n=22).



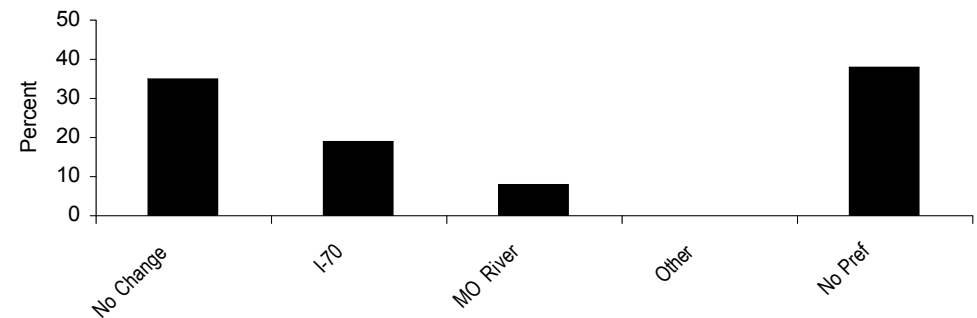
LAKE OZARK/OSAGE RIVER: Because of deep water (reservoirs) and flowing water (Osage River), this region offers late season hunting opportunity for mallards, which often remain well into the winter. In addition, the streams in this region provide early wood duck hunting opportunity. The relatively few responses from this region are varied about season date preferences.



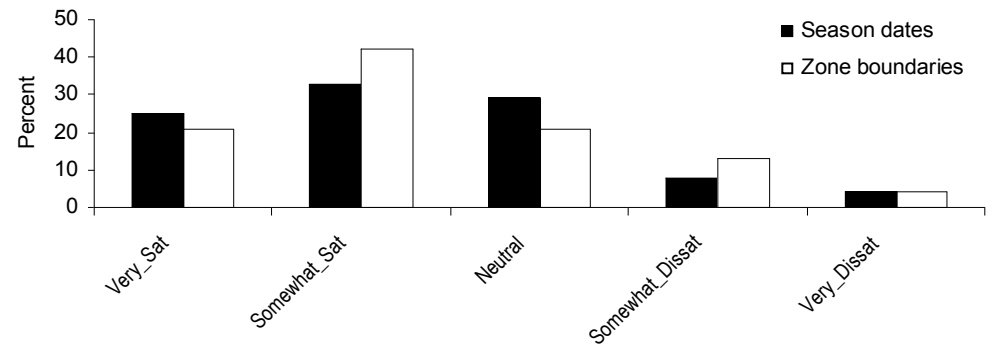
Week most preferred to hunt ducks for hunters who primarily hunted the Lake Ozark/Osage River Region: 1997-2000 and 2001-2004.



North Zone boundary preferences for western Missouri among those who primarily hunted the Lake Ozark/Osage River Region (n=26).



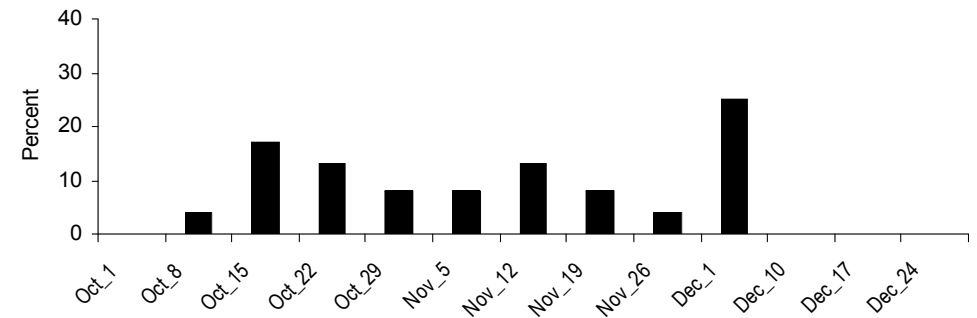
Hunter satisfaction with season dates and zone boundaries by those who primarily hunted the Lake Ozark/Osage River Region (n=24).



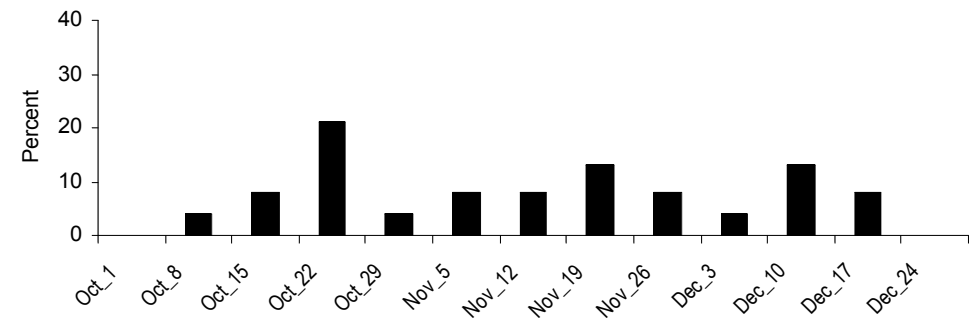
LAKE OZARK/OSAGE RIVER: Respondents held a wide range of opinions concerning the week they most preferred to hunt. Preferences for December hunting likely reflect deep water hunting opportunity after the freeze-up of shallow wetlands.



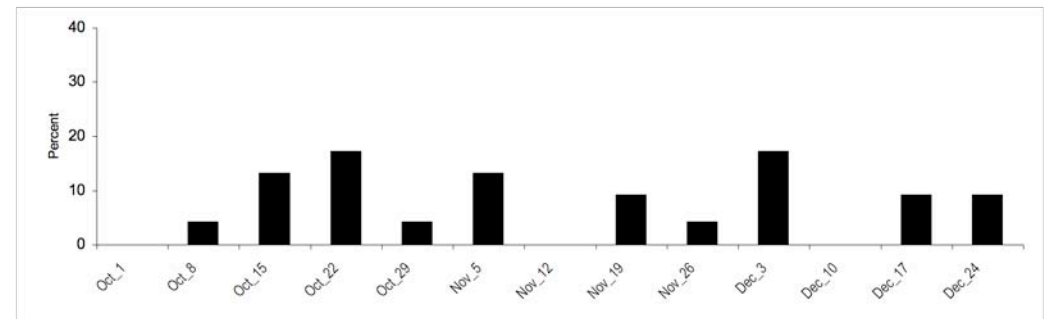
Preferred day for 60-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Mid-Mississippi Region (n=24).



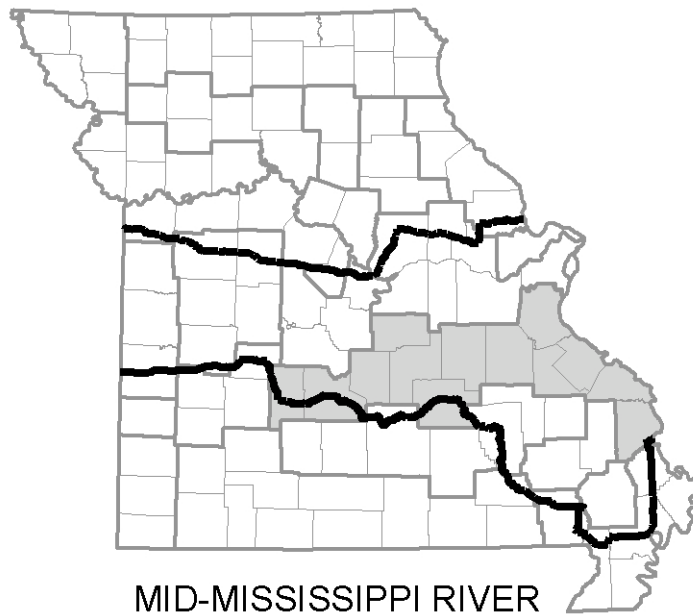
Preferred day for 45-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Mid-Mississippi Region (n=24).



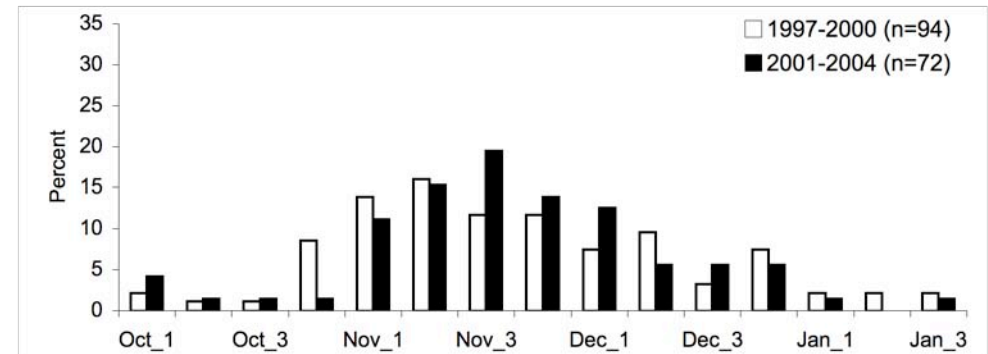
Preferred day for 30-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Mid-Mississippi Region (n=23).



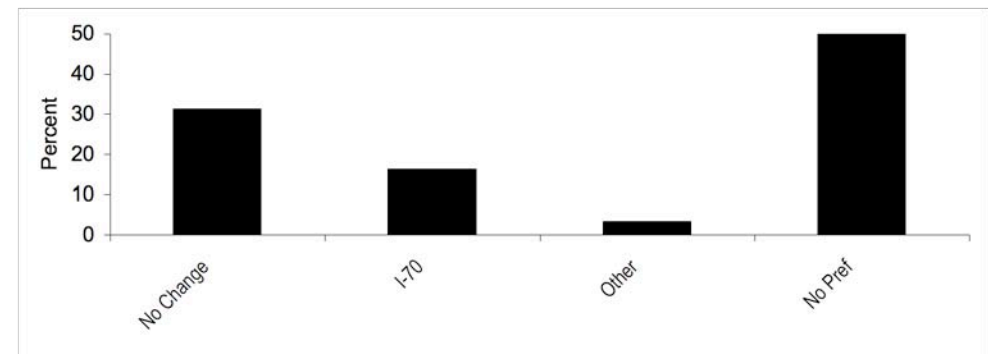
MID-MISSISSIPPI RIVER: The primary wetland habitats in this region are associated with the Mississippi River and floodplain. Wetlands are limited along this portion of the Mississippi River compared to the Bootheel or along the river above St. Louis.



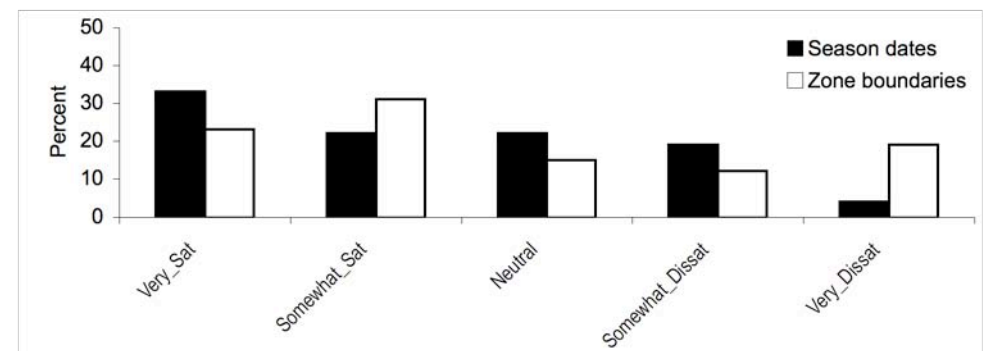
Week most preferred to hunt ducks for hunters who primarily hunted the Mid-Mississippi River Region: 1997-2000 and 2001-2004.



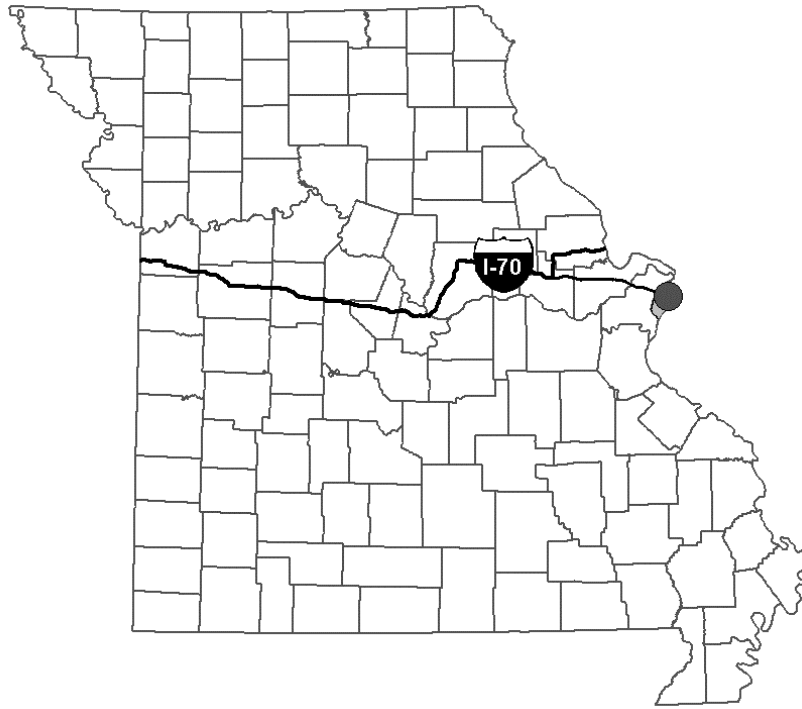
North Zone boundary preferences for eastern Missouri among those who primarily hunted the Mid-Mississippi Region (n=32).



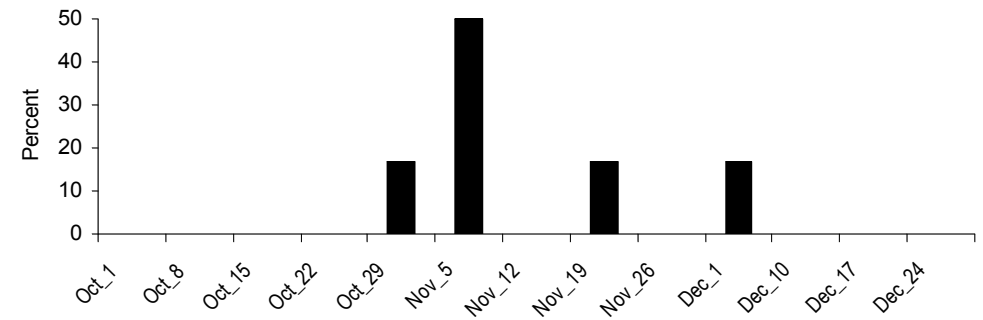
Hunter satisfaction with season dates and zone boundaries by those who primarily hunted the Mississippi Region (n=26).



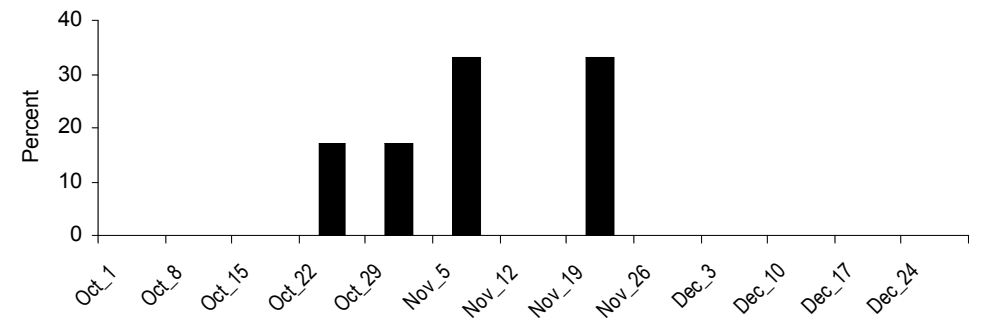
MID-MISSISSIPPI RIVER: Respondents mainly favored hunting in November. Hunters in this region also desire more late season hunting opportunity than they did during 1997-2000. Most hunters in this are satisfied with current zone boundaries and season dates.



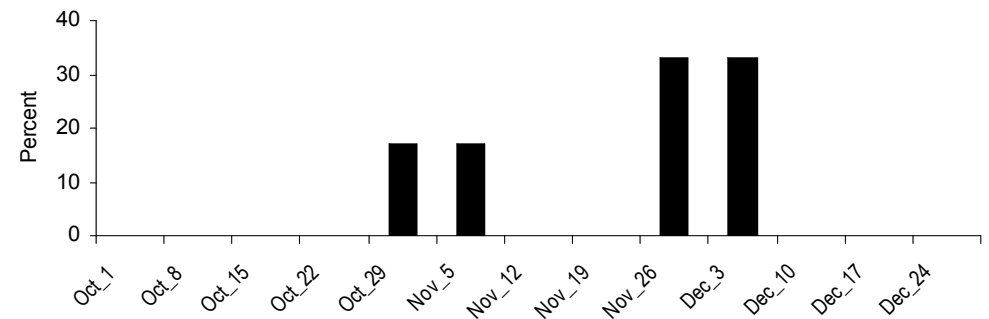
Preferred day for 60-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Ozarks Region (n=6).



Preferred day for 45-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Ozarks Region (n=6).

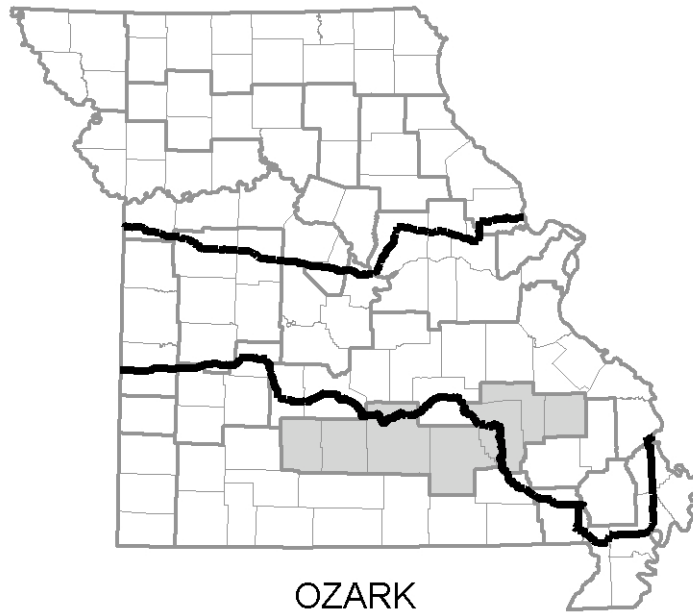


Preferred day for 30-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Ozarks Region (n=6).

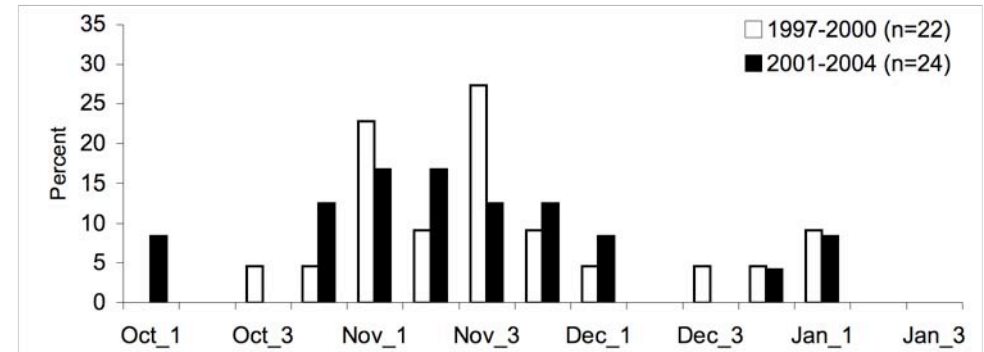


OZARKS: Limited waterfowl hunting takes place in the Ozarks.

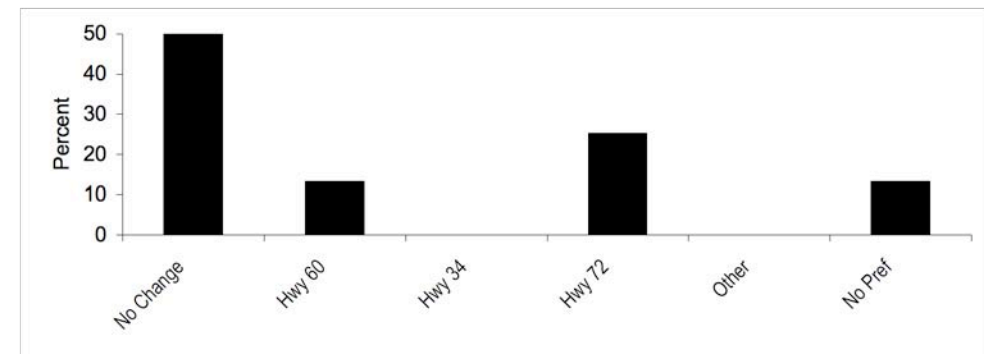
Hunting is primarily for wood ducks on Ozark streams along with some hunting for early season migrants, and late-season mallard hunting on Clearwater Reservoir.



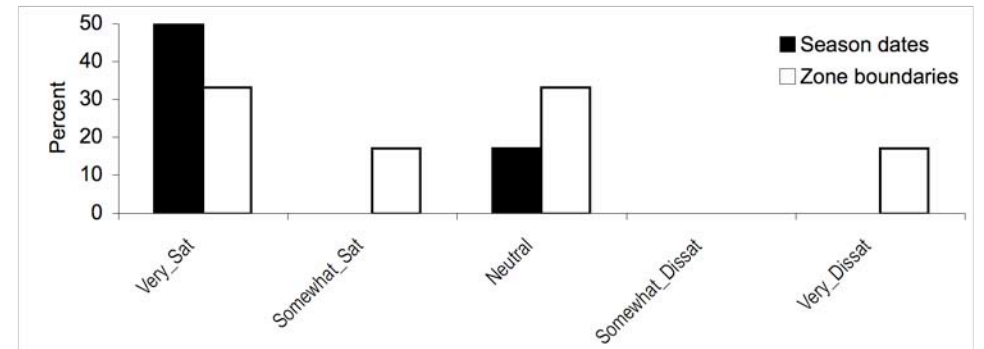
Week most preferred to hunt ducks for hunters who primarily hunted the Ozarks Region: 1997-2000 and 2001-2004.



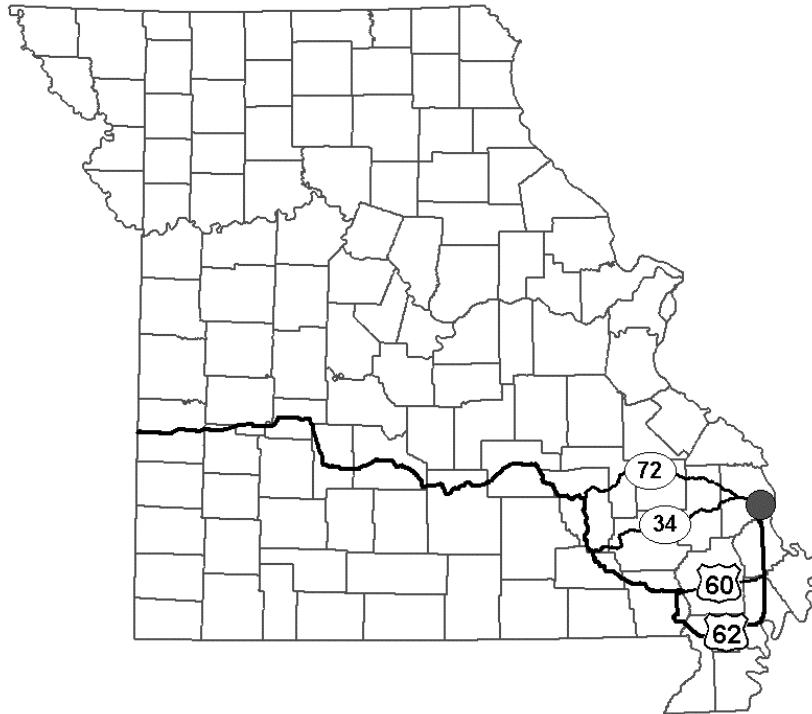
South Zone boundary preferences for eastern Missouri among those who primarily hunted the Ozarks Region (n=8).



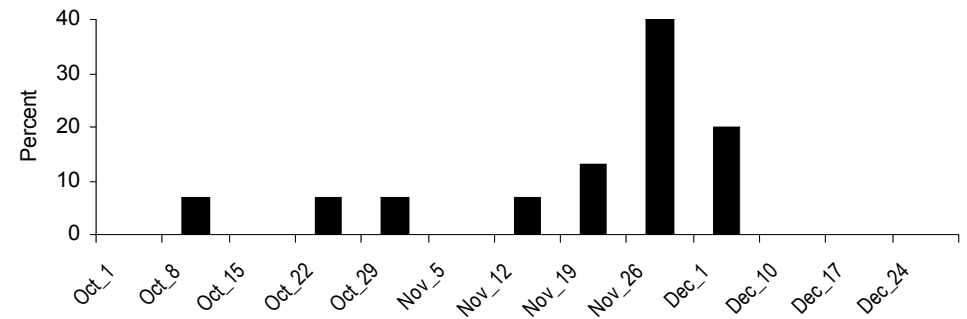
unter satisfaction with season dates and zone boundaries by those who primarily hunted in the Ozarks Region (n=6).



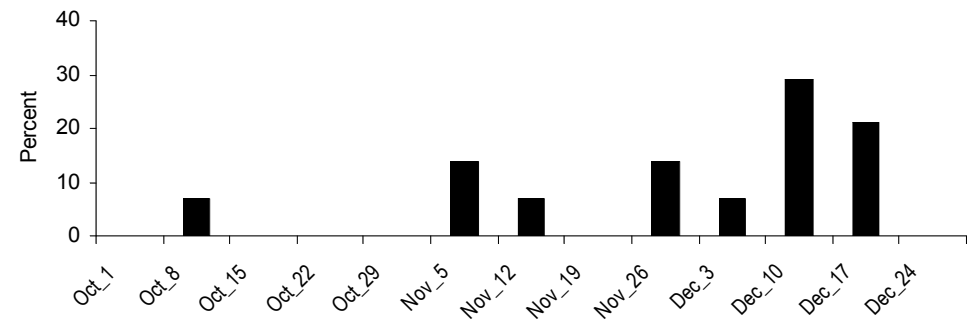
OZARKS: The sample is too small to draw conclusions about hunter preferences.



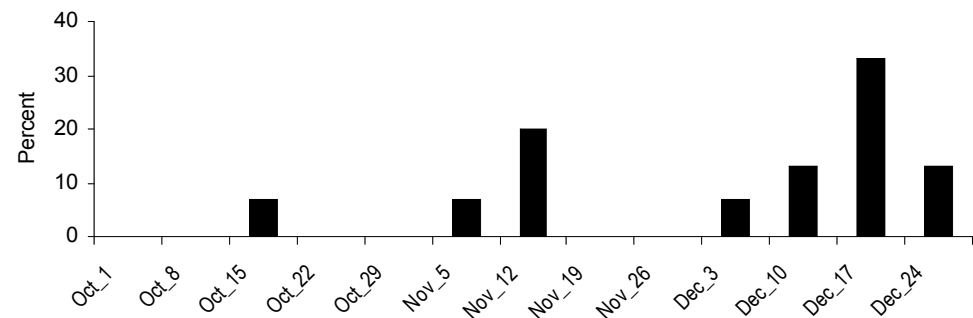
Preferred day for 60-day season to open for those who primarily hunted in Barton County (n=15).



Preferred day for 45-day season to open for those who primarily hunted in Barton County (n=14).



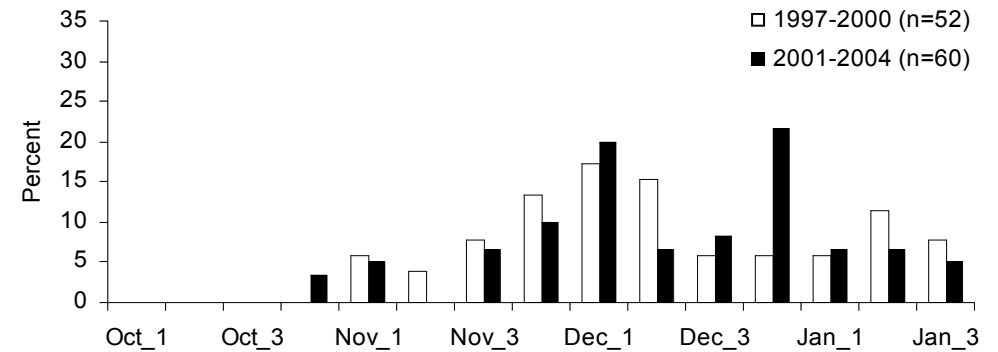
Preferred day for 30-day season to open for those who primarily hunted in Barton County (n=15).



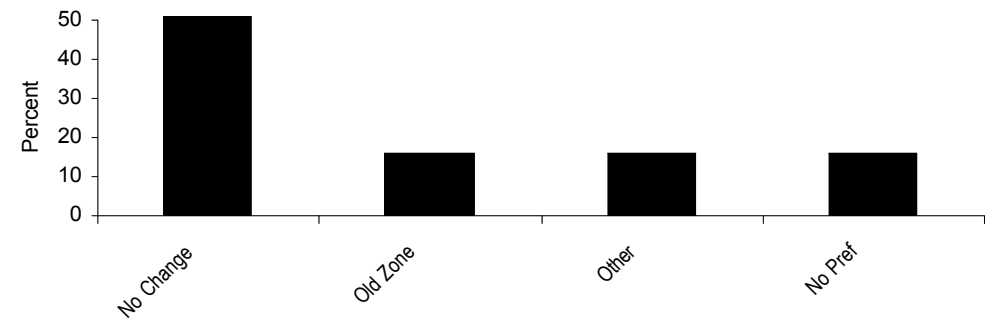
BARTON COUNTY: In 1991, a change in the South Zone boundary was made to accommodate early season hunting opportunity in Barton County (Middle Zone) yet retain later season hunting opportunity on Stockton Lake and Spring River. This change was in lieu of a proposed boundary of I-44 made initially in 1990. In response to hunter input at the 2001 workshops in Carthage and Lamar, the boundary was moved to Hwy 54.



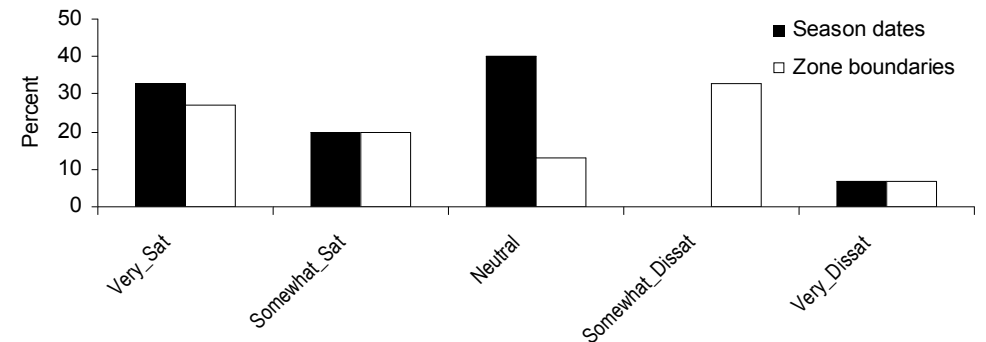
Week most preferred to hunt ducks for hunters who primarily hunted in Barton County: 1997-2000 and 2001-2004.



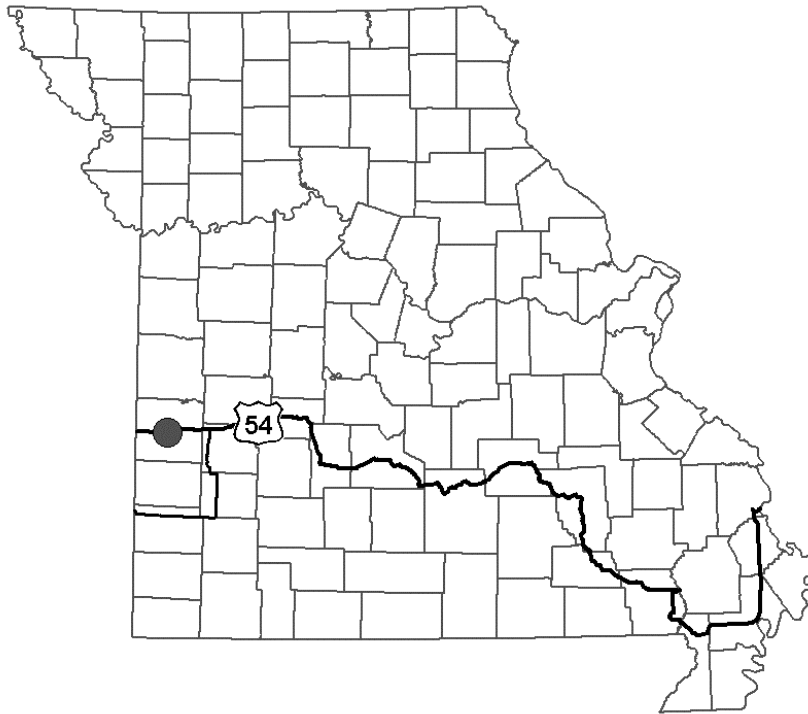
South Zone boundary preferences for western Missouri among those who primarily hunted in Barton County (n=19).



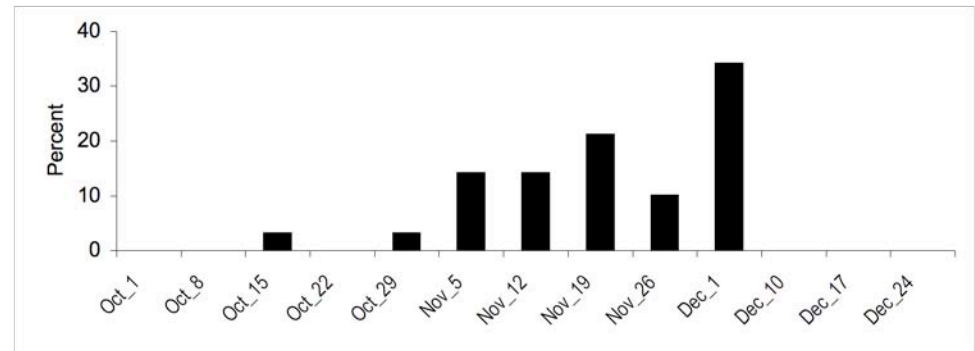
Hunter satisfaction with season dates and zone boundaries by those who primarily hunted in Barton County (n=15).



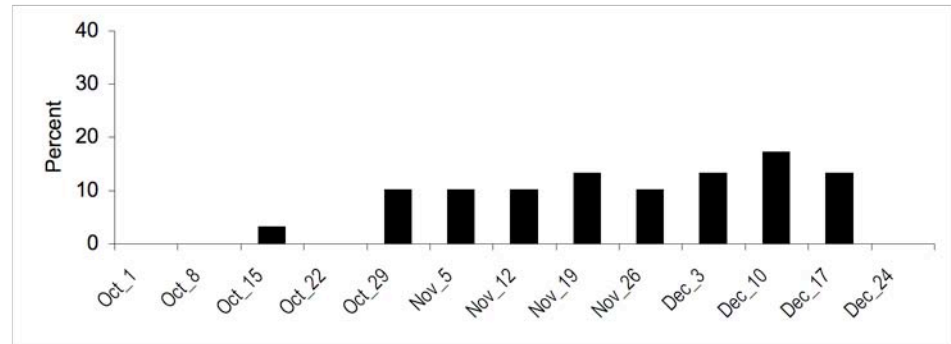
BARTON COUNTY: The week Barton County hunters prefer to hunt appears to have changed after Barton County was included in the South Zone. From 2001-2004, 22% favored the last week of December compared to only 6% in 1997-2000. In 2003, the post-season harvest survey sample size was increased in Barton County and nearby counties. The results about the week most preferred to hunt were consistent with those reported here.



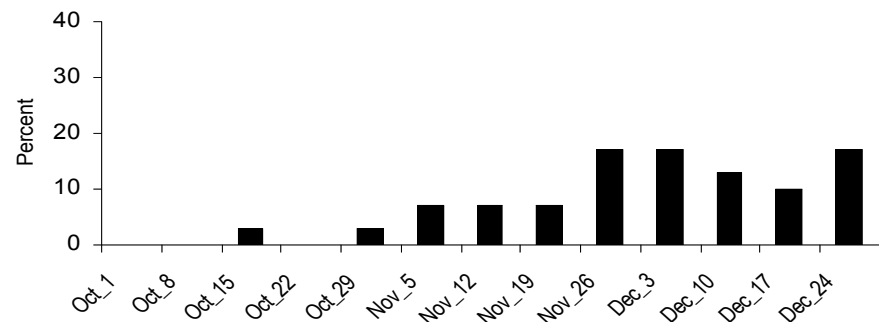
Preferred day for 60-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Stockton Region (n=29).



Preferred day for 45-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Stockton Region (n=30).



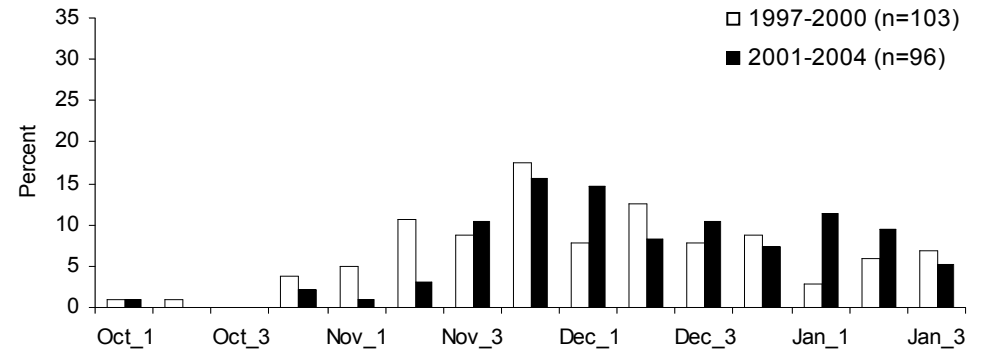
Preferred day for 30-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Stockton Region (n=30).



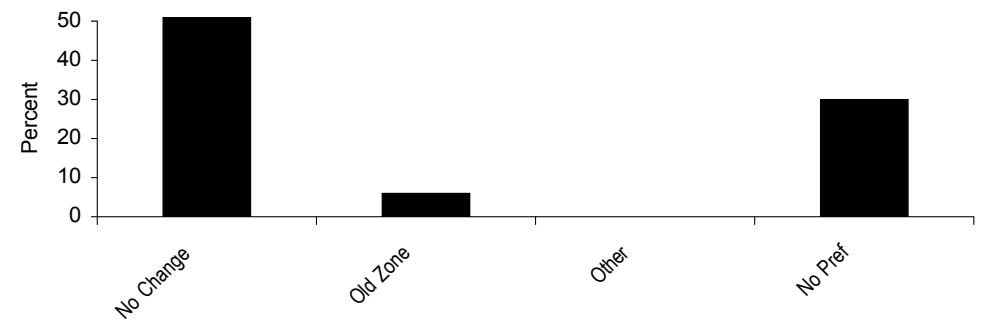
STOCKTON: As shallow wetlands freeze, mallards shift habitat use to Southwest Missouri reservoirs, where they often remain well into winter. When duck zones initially were established in 1977, Stockton Lake was in the North Zone. This was changed when zones were reconfigured in 1980; the original boundary in Southwest Missouri of HWY 160 was amended to HWY 54. Stockton remained in the South Zone when 3 zones were established in 1991, even though the area to the west was incorporated into the Middle Zone to accommodate earlier season preferences. The most favored opening season date was 1 December; however, many hunters still prefer a November opener in a 60-day season. Hunters were very divided in their opinions about 45- or 30-day seasons.



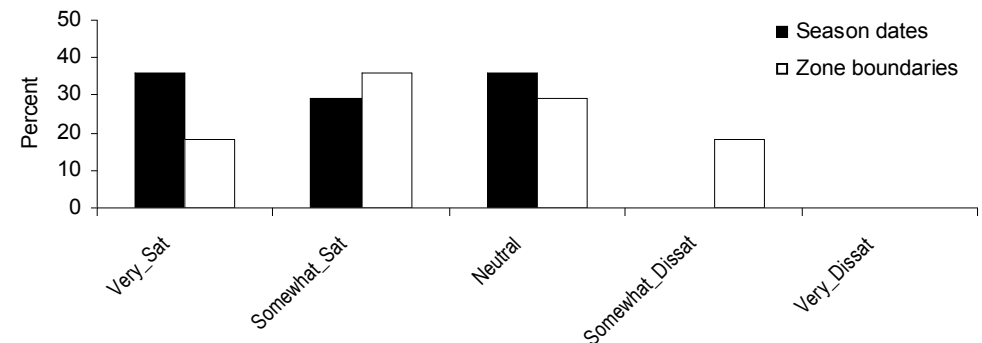
Week most preferred to hunt ducks for hunters who primarily hunted the Stockton Region: 1997-2000 and 2001-2004.



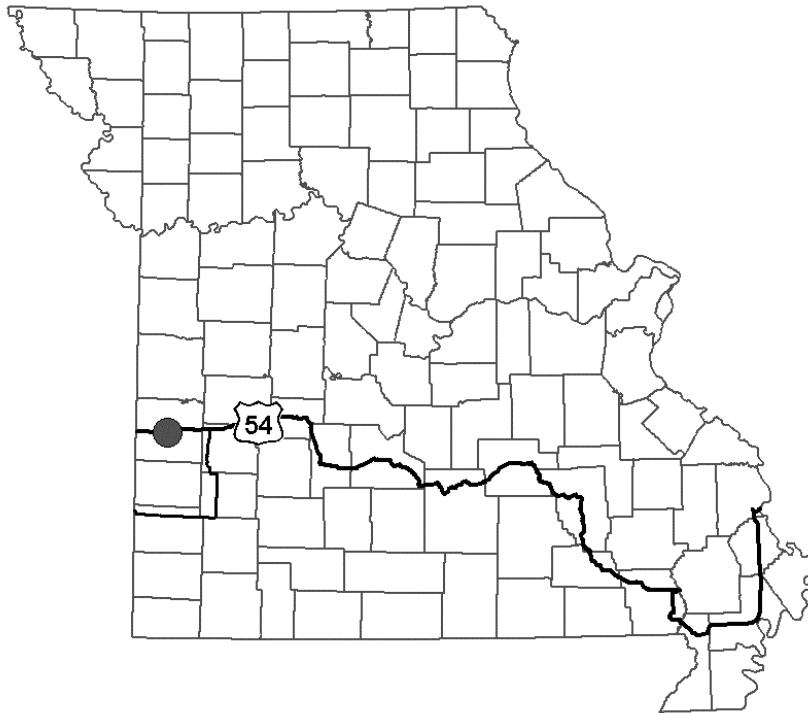
South Zone boundary preferences for western Missouri among those who primarily hunted the Stockton Region (n=33).



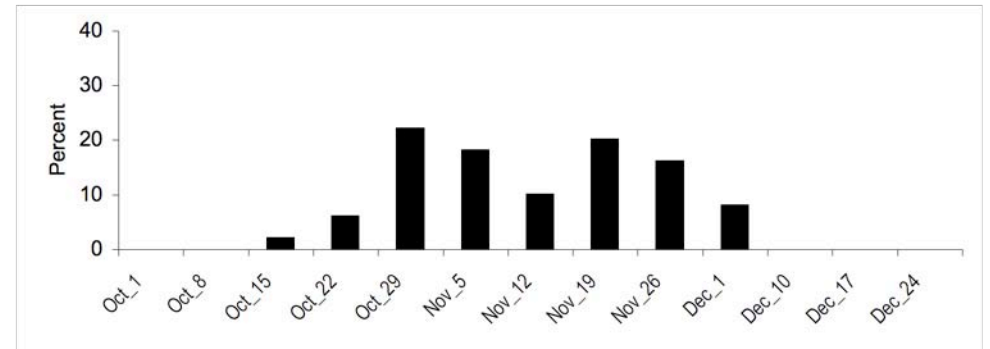
Hunter satisfaction with season dates and zone boundaries by those who primarily hunted in the Stockton Region (n=28).



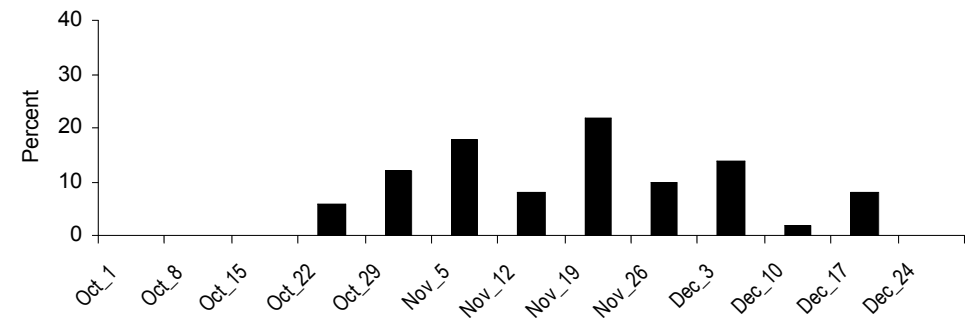
STOCKTON: Hunters have consistently preferred late hunting opportunity in this region. This coincides with when ducks are most prevalent. Hunters were generally satisfied with season dates and zone boundaries. Most preferred the current South Zone boundary or did not have a preference where it should be located.



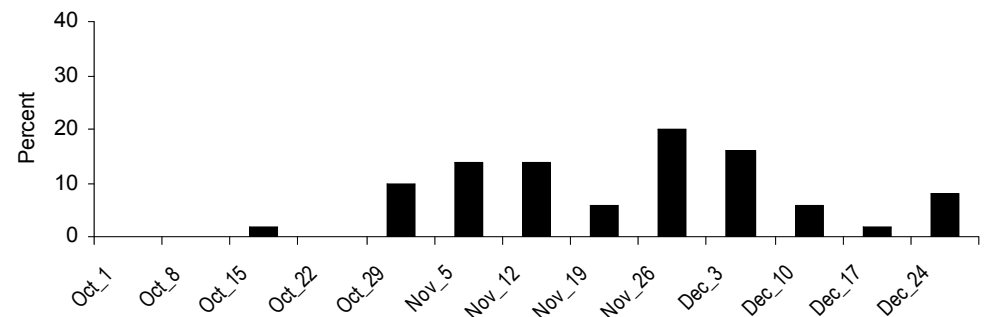
Preferred day for 60-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Duck Creek Region (n=51).



Preferred day for 45-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Duck Creek Region (n=50).



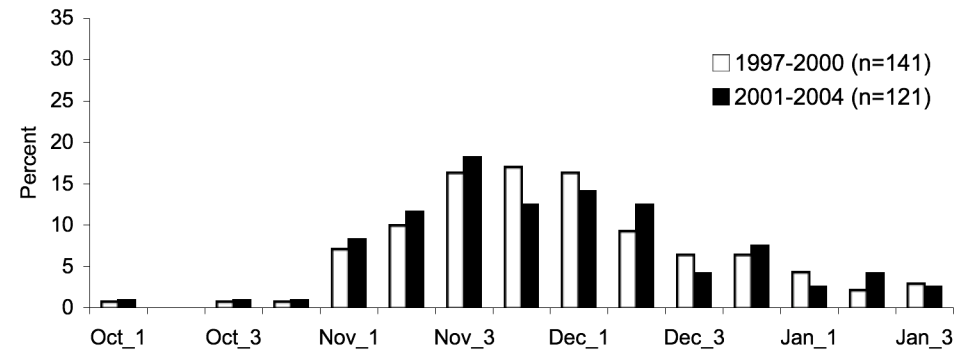
Preferred day for 30-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Duck Creek Region (n=49).



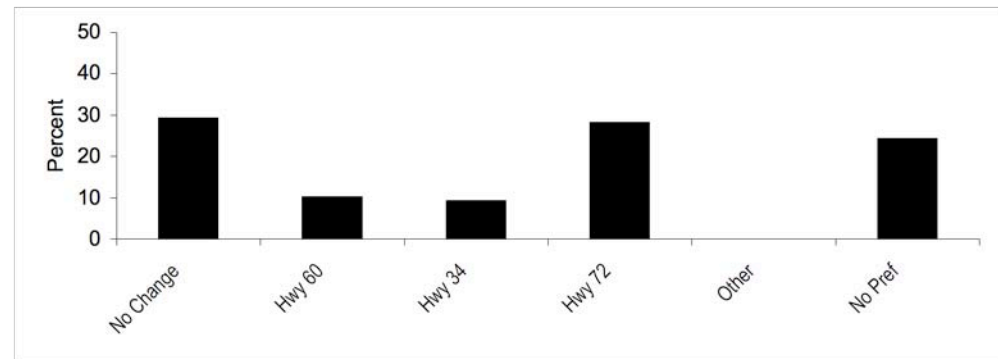
DUCK CREEK: Combined, Duck Creek CA and Mingo NWR (almost 30,000 acres) provide one of Missouri's primary wetland complexes. Flooded bottomland hardwoods are found in few other locations in the state. Ducks first arrive at Duck Creek and Mingo at approximately the same time as in the remainder of the state, but often are present through much of the winter. Thus, hunters are able to take advantage of early season migration events and late season opportunity as ducks frequently redistribute in response to freeze/thaw conditions. As a result of the extended period of duck use in this region, there is little agreement about season timing. Some hunters prefer hunting opportunity for early season migrants and the chance to take advantage of "flight" days, while others prefer late season hunting. Only 18% prefer the current timing of 60-day seasons, another 30% would like an earlier season, and the remaining respondents, a later season. A similar pattern was evident for 45 and 30-day seasons.



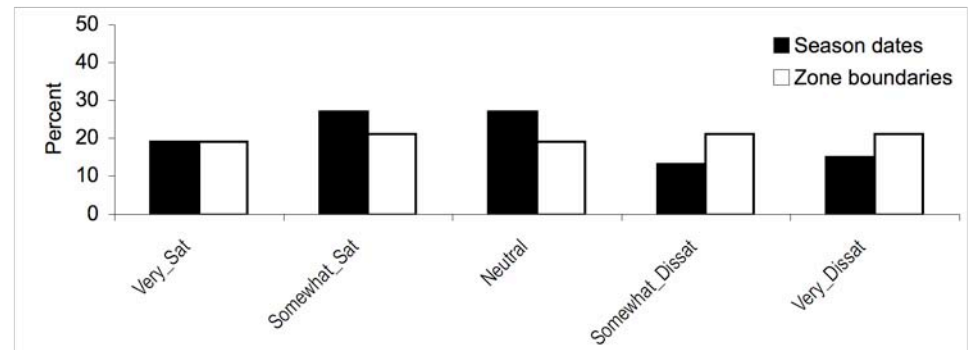
Week most preferred to hunt ducks for hunters who primarily hunted the Duck Creek Region: 1997-2000 and 2001-2004.



South Zone boundary preferences for eastern Missouri among those who primarily hunted the Duck Creek Region (n=58).

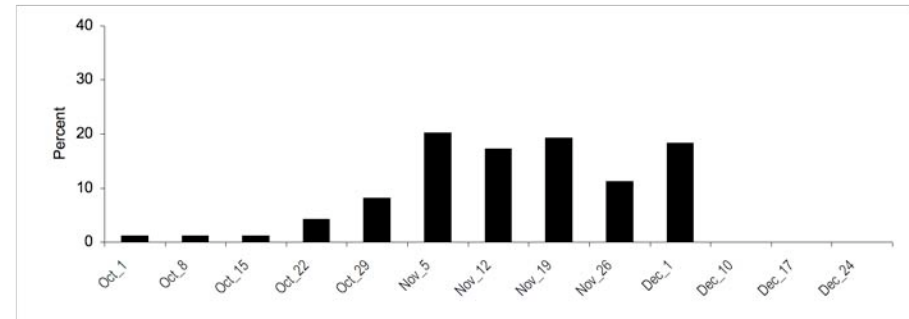
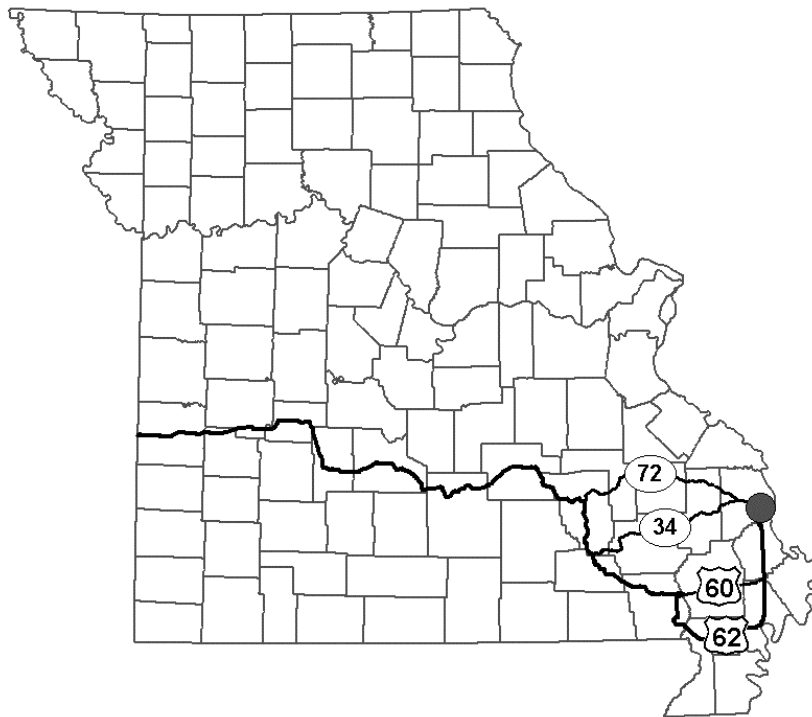


Hunter satisfaction with season dates and zone boundaries by those who primarily hunted the Duck Creek Region (n=48).

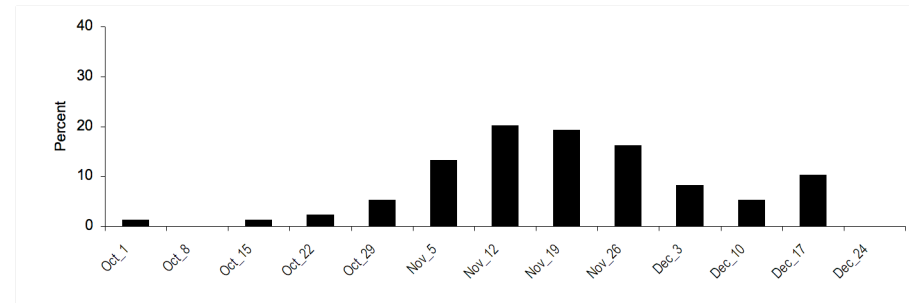


DUCK CREEK: The week hunters most prefer to hunt is highly variable. Eighteen percent prefer to hunt the third week of November, which is similar to many areas in the North Zone. However, many also prefer hunting in early to mid-December. Hunters in the Duck Creek Region are the most dissatisfied with season dates and zone boundaries, with 28% expressing dissatisfaction with season dates and 42% expressing dissatisfaction with zone boundaries. As with season timing, respondents disagreed about zone placement. Twenty-nine percent had no zone boundary preference and 29% preferred the current zone boundary. Of those who would like to see a change, 60% would like to see the South Zone Boundary changed to Hwy 72. If this region were in the South Zone, the season would open later than preferred by 60% of the hunters.

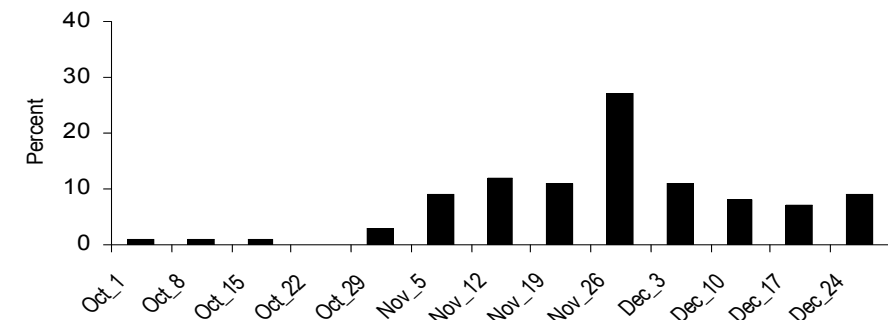
Preferred day for 60-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Otter Slough Region (n=170).



Preferred day for 45-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Otter Slough Region (n=165).



Preferred day for 30-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Otter Slough Region (n=161).

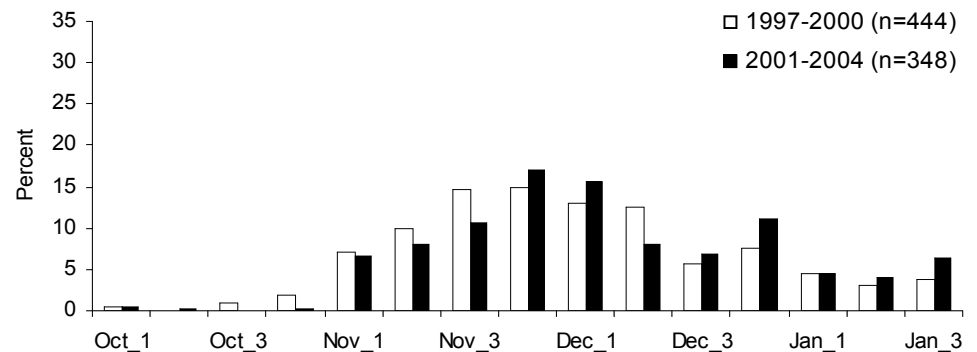


OTTER SLOUGH: Acquisition and expansion of Otter Slough CA during the 1980s and 1990s, private wetland development, and rice production have expanded the amount of shallow water habitat available. This part of the state was in the South Zone until 1986, when adjustments in zone boundaries separated these habitats from those associated with the Lower Mississippi and St. Francis rivers. The addition of a third zone in 1991 allowed season timing to include much of December as seasons progressively increased in length to 60 days by 1997. Hunters vary in their preferences for hunting early season migrants, “flight” ducks

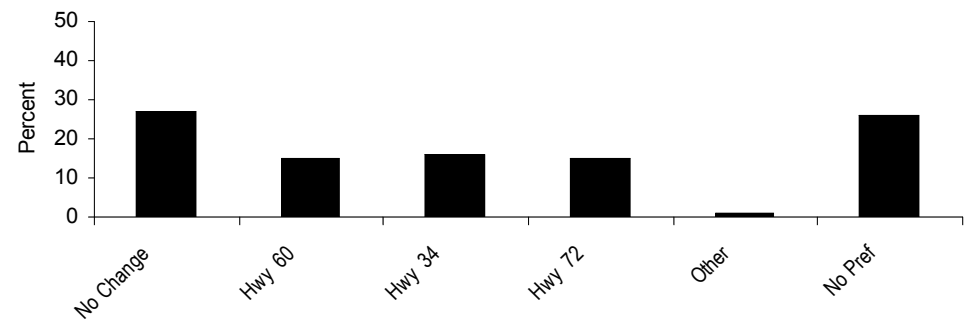


in November and December, or wintering ducks in December and January. Nearly equal numbers of respondents would like a 60-day season to open on November 5, November 12, November 19, or December 1. Interestingly, hunters were in more agreement about a 30-day season with 27% indicating they favor the season to open on November 26 and close on December 25.

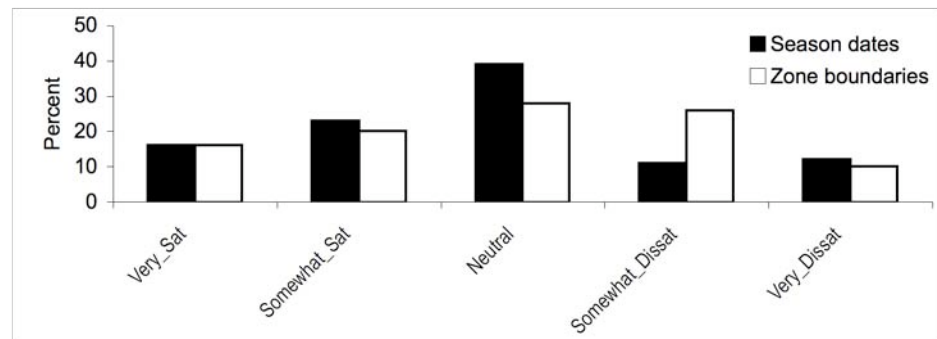
Week most preferred to hunt ducks for hunters who primarily hunted the Otter Slough Region: 1997-2000 and 2001-2004.



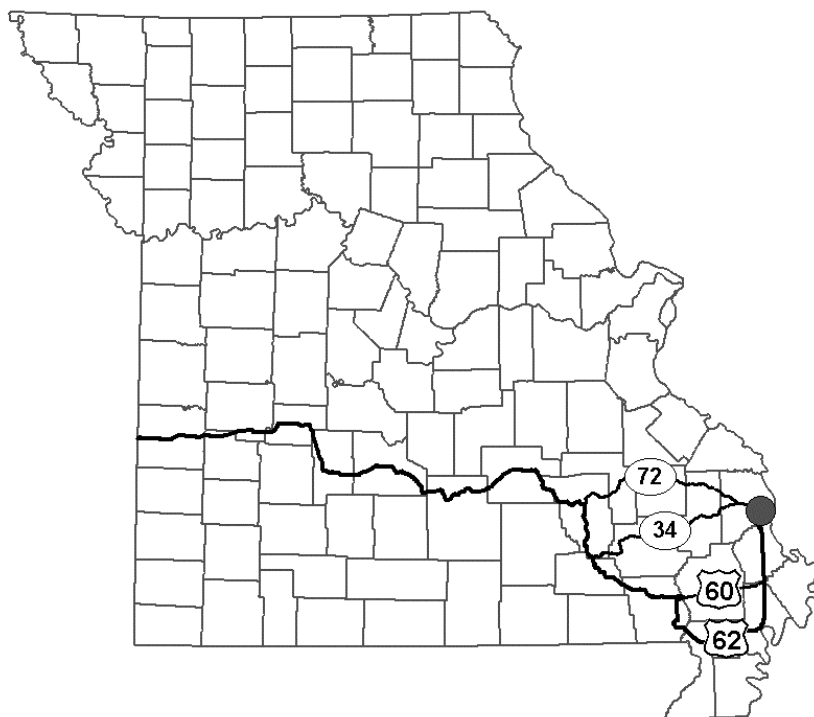
South Zone boundary preferences for eastern Missouri among those who primarily hunted the Otter Slough Region (n=190).



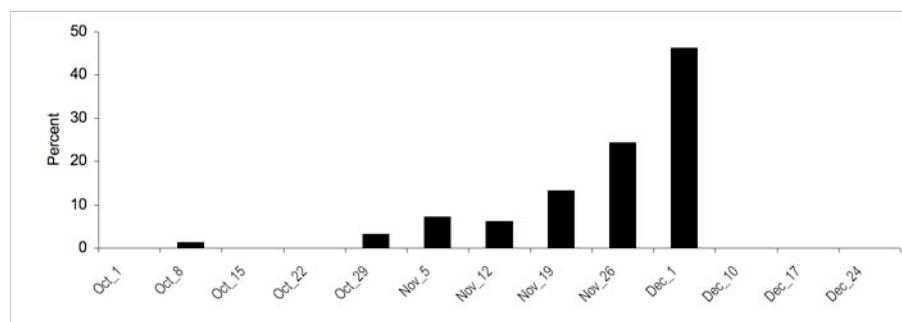
Hunter satisfaction with season dates and zone boundaries by those who primarily hunted the Otter Slough Region (n=172).



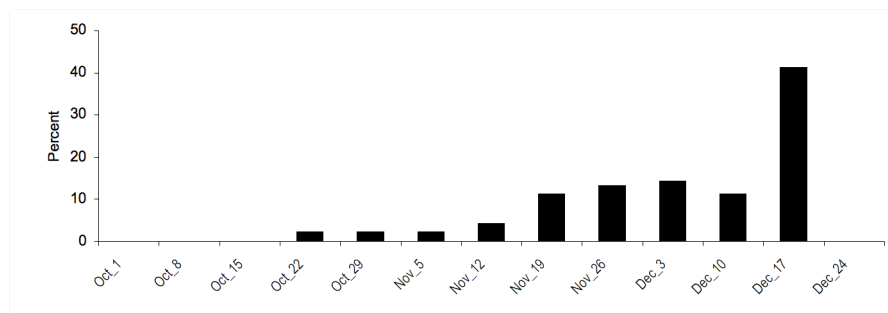
OTTER SLOUGH: As with season dates, hunters were very divided about the week they most preferred to hunt. The same percent of respondents (42%) desired to hunt in November and December. This region had the strongest desire to change zones. Of those with a preference, 64% would like to see a new boundary; however, they were nearly equally divided on where the boundary should be located. If the Otter Slough Region were included in the South Zone, a 60-day season, based on season timing in recent years, would be later than preferred by 52% of respondents.



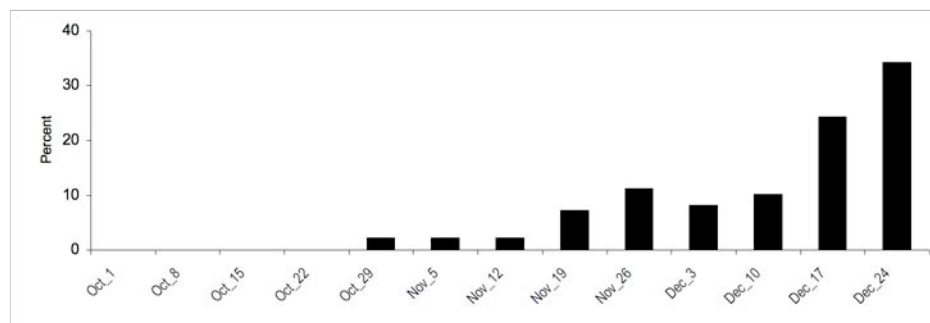
Preferred day for 60-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Bootheel Region (n=129).



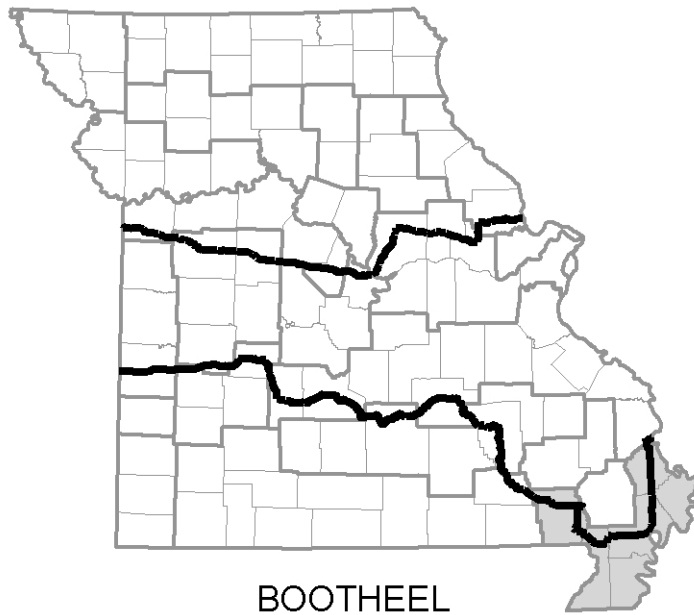
Preferred day for 45-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Bootheel Region (n=123).



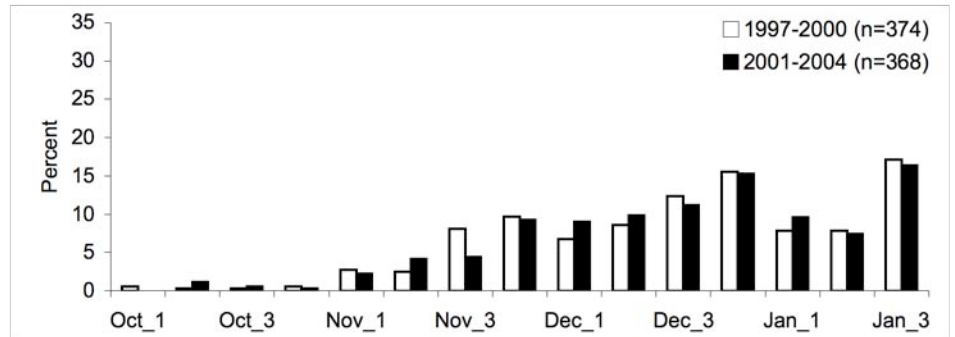
Preferred day for 30-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Bootheel Region (n=122).



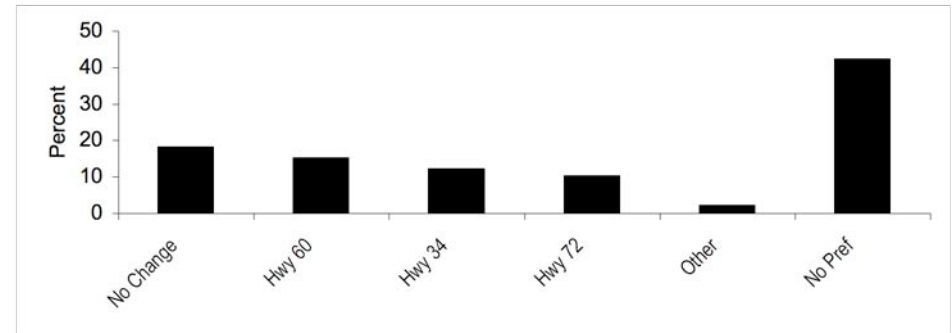
BOOTHEEL: Rice production, late season flooding, and open water associated with the Lower Mississippi, St. Francis, and Black rivers provide hunting opportunity in the Bootheel. This region has been included in the South Zone since 1977. Hunters expressed the most agreement about season dates in the Bootheel compared to anywhere else in Missouri. In 60-, 45-, and 30-day seasons, respondents favored having the season open as late as the federal framework will allow. This would result in opening the season around December during a 60-day season, around December 17 during a 45-day season, and December 24 during a 30-day season.



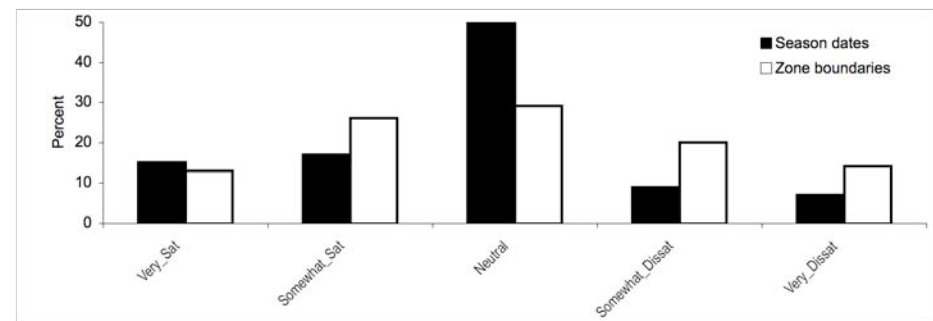
Week most preferred to hunt ducks for hunters who primarily hunted the Bootheel Region: 1997-2000 and 2001-2004.



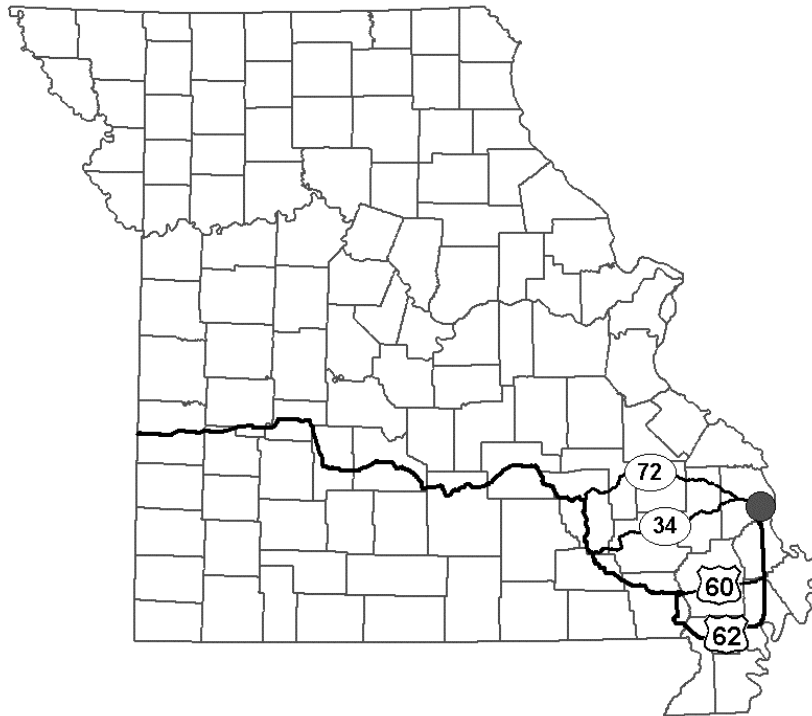
South Zone boundary preferences for eastern Missouri among those who primarily hunted the Bootheel Region (n=146).



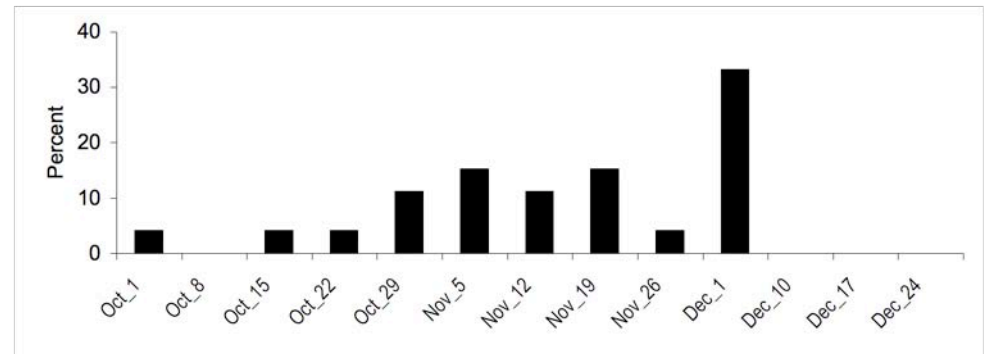
Hunter satisfaction with season dates and zone boundaries by those who primarily hunted the Bootheel Region (n=131).



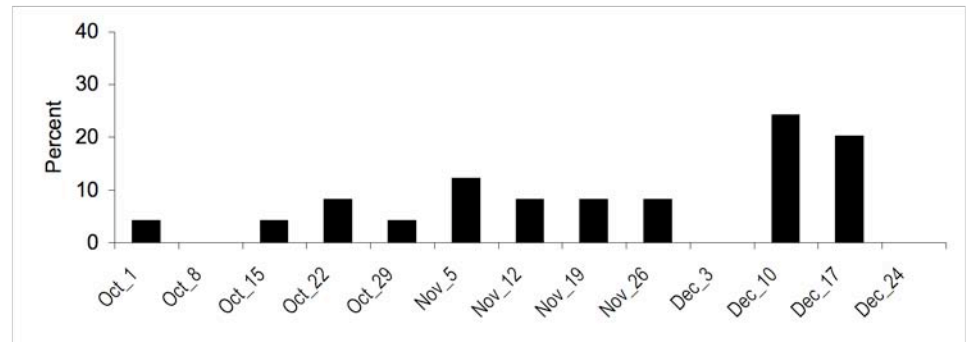
BOOTHEEL: Although season date preferences were later than in most locations, a fairly sizeable proportion of hunters still favor November and December hunting opportunity (65%). Forty-two percent indicated they did not have zone boundary preferences, and an additional 18% preferred no change. A similar proportion of hunters were satisfied as were dissatisfied with season dates and zone boundaries.



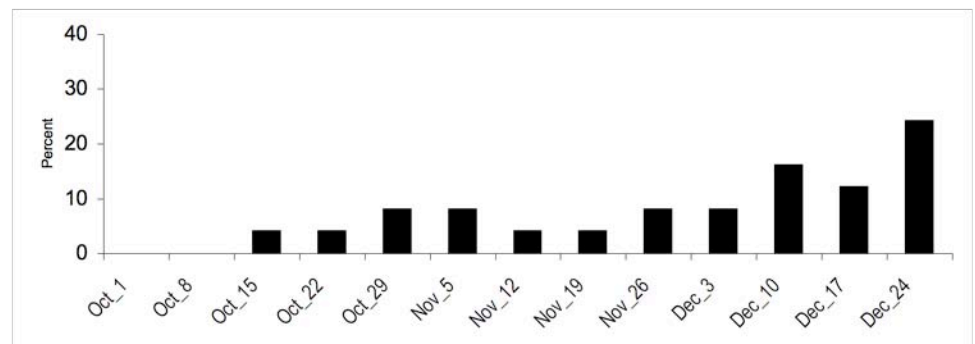
Preferred day for 60-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the White River Region (n=27).



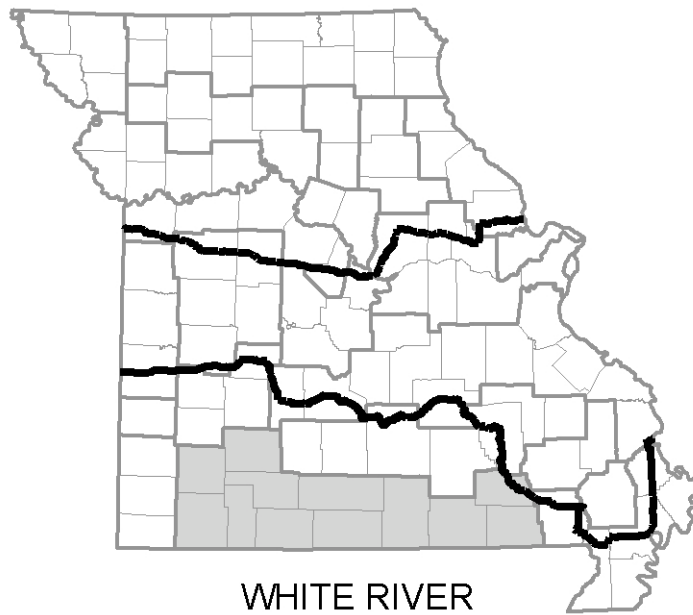
Preferred day for 45-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the White River Region (n=25).



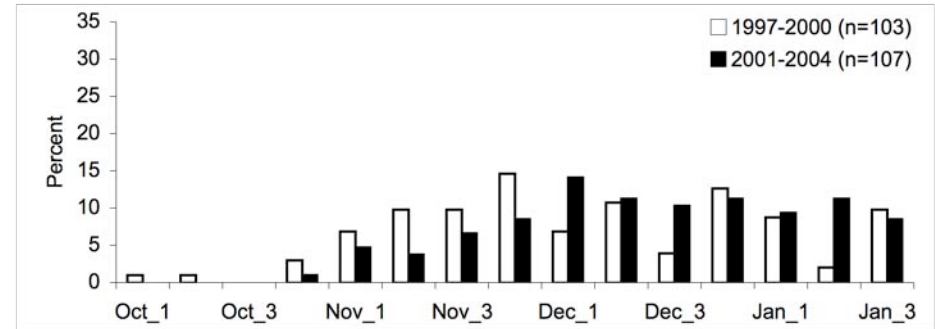
Preferred day for 30-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the White River Region (n=25).



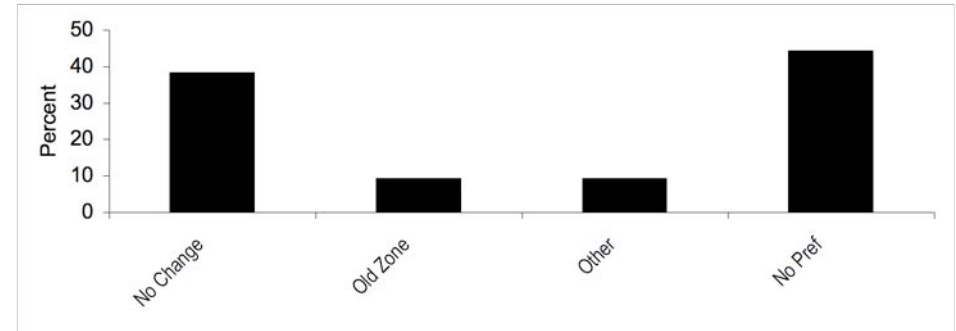
WHITE RIVER LAKES: Large reservoirs in South Missouri provide limited habitat diversity for migrant ducks; however, traditions for early season diver hunting and late season mallards have developed. Lack of shallow wetland habitat in South Missouri limits the number of ducks supported throughout the fall and early winter. A small portion of hunters preferred that the season would open in late October or early November in order to coincide with early diver migrations, and the remainder prefer a late season opener to take advantage of late season mallard hunting.



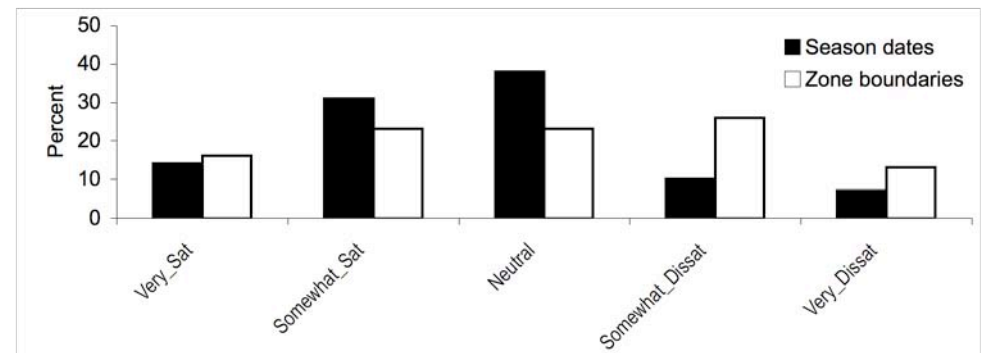
Week most preferred to hunt ducks for hunters who primarily hunted the White River Region: 1997-2000 and 2001-2004.



South Zone boundary preferences for western Missouri among those who primarily hunted the White River Region (n=32).

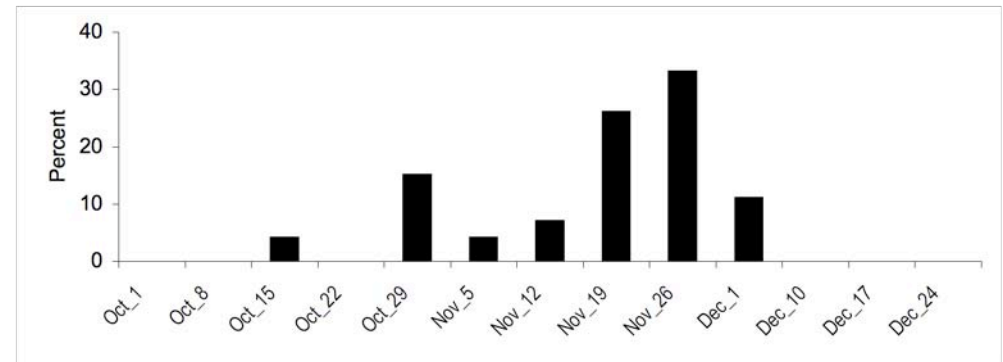


4Hunter satisfaction with season dates and zone boundaries by those who primarily hunted the White River Region (n=29).

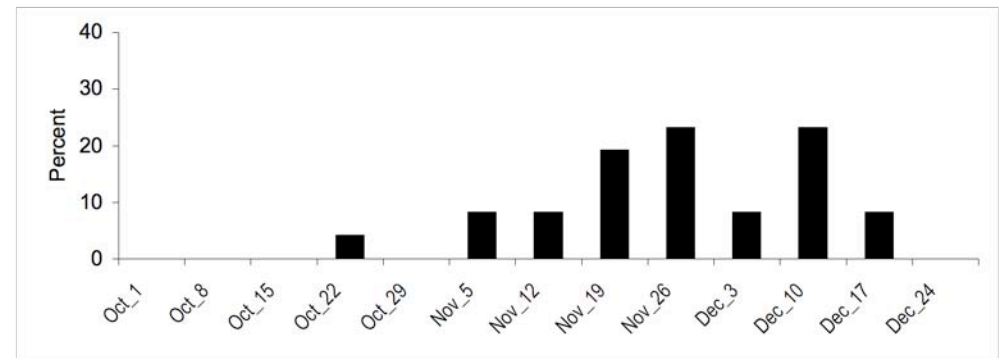


WHITE RIVER: Hunters had diverse opinions about their favored week to hunt. In general, the season preferences during 2001-2004 were later than those during 1997-2000. Most hunters either had no preference about zone boundaries or thought the current zone boundary was acceptable.

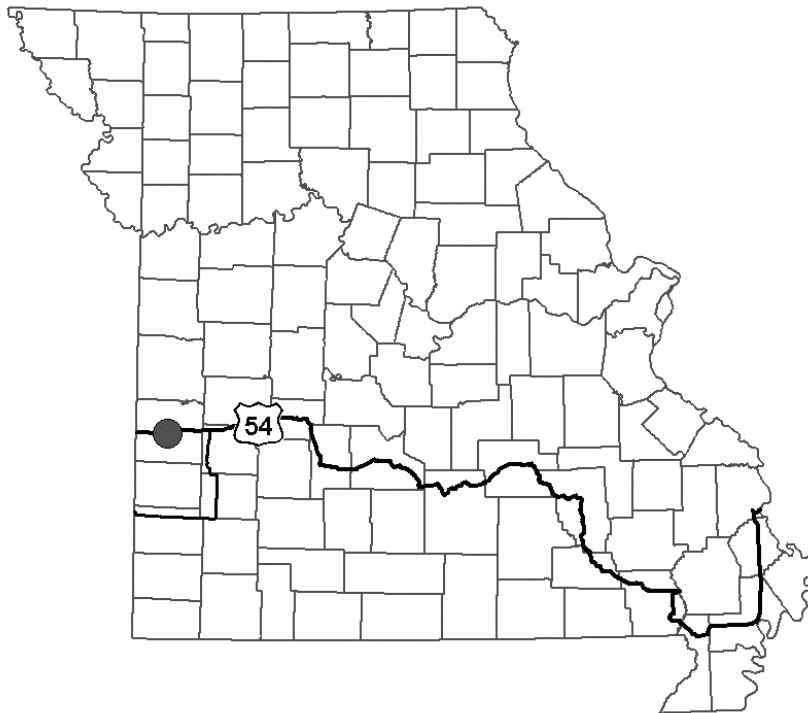
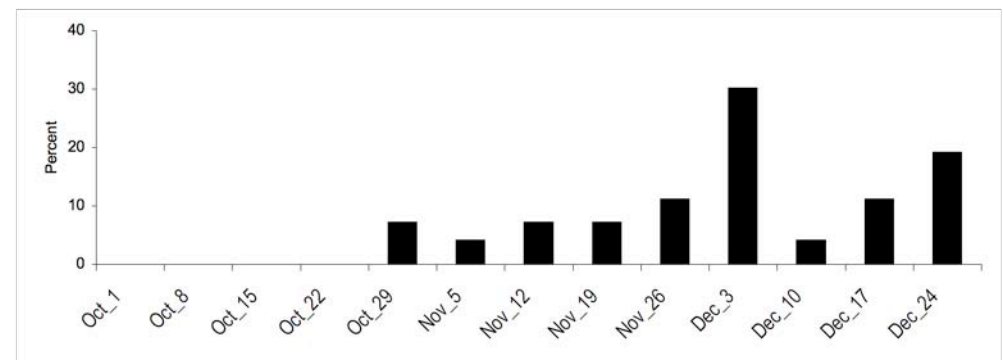
Preferred day for 60-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Southwest Region (n=27).



Preferred day for 45-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Southwest Region (n=26).



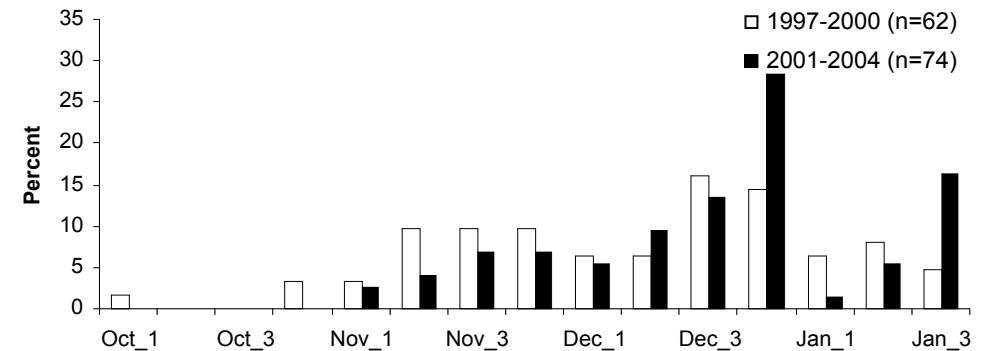
Preferred day for 30-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Southwest Region (n=27).



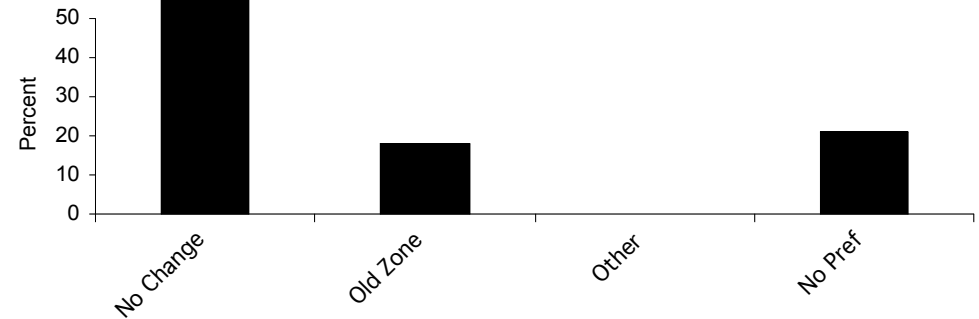
SOUTHWEST: The widely diverse views about season dates in the Southwest Region likely reflect the extremes in hunting styles that range from early season hunting on small wetlands and ponds versus late season trips on large irrigation reservoirs and small rivers. Fifty-six percent of respondents would prefer an earlier 60-day season than what is now offered. This proportion was actually higher than in Barton County where 41% indicated preferences for an earlier season. In both regions, small sample sizes limit the conclusions that can be drawn from these data.



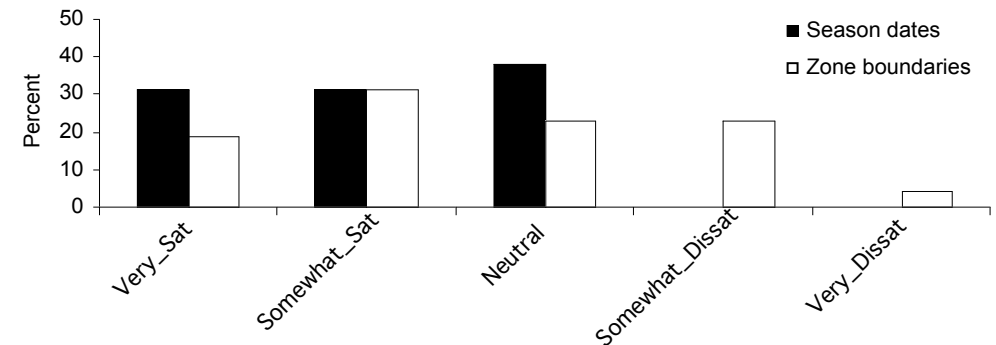
Week most preferred to hunt ducks for hunters who primarily hunted the Southwest Region: 1997-2000 and 2001-2004.



South Zone boundary preferences for western Missouri among those who primarily hunted the Southwest Region (n=28).



Hunter satisfaction with season dates and zone boundaries by those who primarily hunted the Southwest Region (n=26).



SOUTHWEST: As in Barton County, the week preferred to hunt has changed dramatically. Similar to Barton County, the most preferred week to hunt is the fourth week of December, with 28% indicating this week as their most preferred. Over 60% of respondents in this region preferred that the current zone boundary remain in place the next five years.

